

Review of Ukraine – intervention by Poland
(Geneva, 24 October)

Poland would like to thank the delegation of Ukraine for its informative national report and constructive participation in the UPR process.

We welcome the efforts of the Ukrainian authorities to strengthen the protection of human rights. In this regard, we note with appreciation the creation of the Commission on Prevention of Torture at the Office of the President of Ukraine.

At the same time, there are issues that give rise to questions. For example, there are opinions that the 2010 judicial reform, which entrusted the High Council of Justice (HCJ) with broad competences in appointing and dismissing judges and initiating disciplinary proceedings against them, may have resulted in weakened judicial independence.

Independent media play a vital role in any democratic state, facilitating the exercise of fundamental rights to freedom of expression and access to information. We would appreciate any information on the measures that have been taken to promote pluralism of the media in Ukraine.

The delegation of Poland would like to recommend to Ukraine:

- to consider establishing enhanced procedures and transparent criteria regarding the appointment and dismissal of judges and application of disciplinary measures in order to dispel concerns of the international community regarding the independence of the judiciary,
- to further promote freedom and pluralism of the media as key elements for enabling the exercise of freedom of expression.