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## Universal Periodic Review of Serbia – intervention by Poland

(Geneva, 30 January 2013)

Poland would like to thank the delegation of Serbia for its comprehensive national report.

The Polish delegation takes note of the elaboration of the extensive legislative framework as well as the adoption of specific programmes and action plans pertaining to the promotion and protection of human rights. We acknowledge Serbia's standing invitation for the United Nations special procedures and participation in the UPR process.

At the same time, Poland is concerned about a negative perception and stereotyping of national, ethnic and religious minorities in Serbia. We also take note of reports underlining inadequate functioning of the courts, for example unreasonable delays in proceedings, and cases of misconduct of the law enforcement officials. We note a number of offences relating to the sale of children.

Therefore, the delegation of Poland would like to make the following recommendations:

- to address the phenomenon of discrimination and negative attitude based on nationality, ethnicity or religion by criminalizing the so called *hate speech*;
- to adopt the Law on the Ombudsman for the Rights of the Child and to incorporate an explicit definition of the crime of sale of children into the Penal Code;
- to improve the effectiveness of the administration of justice
- to ensure strict observance of code of conduct by law enforcement officials.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Jerry Bawski