

**UPR of Azerbaijan**  
**Statement by Poland**  
*30 April 2013*

Mr. President,

The delegation of Poland would like to thank the delegation of Azerbaijan for their participation in the UPR process and informative presentation of the national report today. Acknowledging Azerbaijan's cooperation and support to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, we encourage Azerbaijan to issue a standing invitation to all special procedures.

Poland is concerned about the reported cases of torture and ill-treatment in prisons, as well as about cases of deaths and suicides in custody. Therefore, Poland would like to recommend that Azerbaijan:

- **ensure that all allegations of torture are promptly, impartially and effectively investigated, and similarly all incidents of death in custody are thoroughly and impartially investigated, and those found responsible are prosecuted and punished accordingly.**

We remain seriously concerned about the extensive limitations to the media's right to freedom of expression, including closure of independent newspapers, removal of permits for local broadcasting for a number of foreign radio stations and harassment and beatings of journalists. We urge Azerbaijan to develop an enabling and safe environment conducive to the free expression of civil society allowing individuals to exercise their legitimate freedom of association without undue obstructions. We thus recommend, that Azerbaijan:

- **put an end to direct and indirect restrictions on freedom of expression and take effective measures to ensure the full realisation of the right to freedom of expression and assembly.**

Thank you.