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UPR of Colombia 23rd April 2013 Republic of Poland

Mr. President,

Poland would like to thank the delegation of Colombia for its informative national report and for its engagement in the UPR process. We value Colombia's efforts to strengthen the rule of law as well as significant legislative and public policy initiatives such as the National System for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.

In this UPR cycle we would like to touch upon three specific issues.

Firstly, Poland would like to refer to the findings of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions who stated in his report from 11th May 2012 that extrajudicial executions continued and that progress in investigations remained insufficient. We would like to ask about additional measures that Colombia plans to undertake to remedy the current situation.

Secondly, Poland appreciates the progress made by Colombia in preventing the recruitment of children by non-State armed groups. At the same time we note that according to UN reports the recruitment of children by non-State armed groups as well as the use of children for intelligence purposes by the Colombian military forces personnel remained widespread. Therefore Poland recommends to Colombia to provide demobilized children with assistance and to penalize those responsible for their recruitment.

Finally, we recommend to Colombia to intensify its efforts aimed at providing access of all children to free and compulsory primary education.

Thank you for your attention.