

UPR of Israel

Statement by the Republic of Poland

October 29nd, 2013

(7)

Mr. President,

Poland would like to thank the delegation of Israel for their participation in the 17th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group. The decision to resume the cooperation with unique review mechanism is an important step not only for the State of Israel but for the credibility and sustainability of the Council as a whole. We welcome the fact that the delegation of Israel has decided to present its national report and return to this room. Human rights are universal and must be applied, respected and promoted in the same way by Israel as any member state of the United Nations.

Poland would like to appeal to all delegations to approach this particular UPR session as any previous one in an objective and unbiased manner. Let us criticize where criticism is needed but let us avoid the bashing of previous years and previous sessions as it is, as most recent history has shown counterproductive.

Poland would like to recommend to Israel **to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and recognize the competence of the Committee against Torture to examine individual complaints.**

Moreover, we recommend **to establish an independent national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles**

We are looking forward to the constructive cooperation of Israel with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms.

Thank you for your attention.

Mr. Jerzy BAURSKI