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UPR of Cambodia Statement by Poland 5 February 2014, Geneva

Mr. President,

Poland would like to thank the delegation of Cambodia for its national report and its engagement into the UPR process.

We would like to commend the Government of Cambodia for their consistent efforts to improve the human rights situation in the country, inter alia by ratifying or acceding to many important international human rights instruments. We encourage the Government of Cambodia to comply with provisions of these newly adopted instruments, and consider acceding to others.

Nonetheless, we need to mention our concern about the situation in the justice sector, and recommend that Cambodia undertakes relevant reforms that guarantee the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, and ensure that it is free from political control and interference. This refers in particular to the work of the Extraordinary Chambers in Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) which continue to face numerous challenges, including the lack of financial contribution that the Government of Cambodia has committed itself to.

We remain concerned about the situation of human rights in the country including the excessive use of force during the demonstrations after the disputed national elections of July last year and during the strikes of the garment sector workers.

Referring to Secretary-General's report A/HRC/24/32 of 2013, we would like to recommend that the Government of Cambodia further strengthens its cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on Cambodia, and consider inviting special procedures thematic mandate holders in order to benefit from their expertise.

Thank you for your attention.