

**UPR of Georgia**  
**Statement by the Republic of Poland**  
*10<sup>th</sup> November 2015, Geneva*

Mr. President,

Poland would like to thank the delegation of Georgia for their comprehensive national report and active participation in the second cycle of the UPR process.

We acknowledge Georgian Government's efforts undertaken to comply with the recommendations accepted during the first cycle of UPR and to incorporate significant provisions on human rights into national legislation. Poland notes with appreciation the adoption of comprehensive non-discrimination legislation by Georgia, in particular the Law on the elimination of all forms of discrimination.

Nevertheless, there is still space for improvement in the field of gender equality. Patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes on the traditional role of men and women and related intolerance should be promptly addressed. In this respect, Poland would like to recommend that Georgia **strengthen existing law and practice to combat gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment, i.a. with regard to labor.**

We believe that all instances of ill-treatment by law enforcement officers should be investigated in a transparent way without undue delay and the perpetrators should be held accountable. While recognizing the efforts already taken by the Georgian Government in this respect, Poland recommends Georgia to **ensure that all allegations of excessive use of force, including torture and ill-treatment, by police are effectively investigated and that those responsible are brought to justice and victims receive adequate reparation.** We also believe that the right place for presenting allegations and relevant documentation and information on the use of force is in the courtroom and not in the social media. Such mishandling can undermine the principles of the rule of law and the presumption of innocence before proven guilty.

Furthermore, we also appreciate the improvement in the protection of the rights of the child, such as the legislative amendments to increase the age of criminal responsibility from 12 to 14 years. However, the Polish delegation would like to recommend that Georgia **abandon the practice of corporal punishment of children and encourage non-violent forms of discipline.**

Finally, we wish to recall that in his 2015 report on the status of internally displaced persons and refugees from Abkhazia, Georgia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, the Secretary-General invited all stakeholders to grant unimpeded access to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in order for the Office to be able to monitor, report on and address the human rights situation

Thank you for your attention.