

**UPR of Sao Tome and Principe**  
**Statement by the Republic of Poland**  
*11<sup>th</sup> November 2015, Geneva*

Mr. President,

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

We acknowledge Sao Tome and Principe's efforts undertaken to comply with the recommendations accepted during the first cycle of UPR.

Poland notes with appreciation some progress made by Sao Tome and Principe in the field of the rights of minors, such as including provisions on sexual abuse, exploitation of minors and child trafficking in its Penal Code. We also appreciate the improvement in the birth registration rate and creation of the juvenile court.

Nevertheless, there is still a space for further improvement in the protection of the rights of the child.

In this respect, Poland would like to recommend Sao Tome and Principe to **consider establishing independent mechanism for monitoring children's rights and providing necessary financial resources for its functioning.**

Poland is convinced that existence of a national human rights institution is crucial for effective protection and promotion of human rights. Therefore Poland recommend that Sao Tome and Principe **establish a national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles.**

Furthermore, the Polish delegation would like to recommend that Sao Tome and Principe **ratifies the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.**

Thank you for your attention.