

Ms Agnieszka KARPINSKA

UPR of Belgium

Statement by the Republic of Poland

Mr. President,

The Polish delegation would like to thank the delegation of Belgium for the presentation of their national report. We acknowledge Belgium's activities undertaken to comply with the recommendations accepted during the first cycle of the UPR.

Poland notes with appreciation activities made by the Government of Belgium in the field of the right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work as the adoption of the Royal Decree of 6 December 2012 and promoting the recruitment and employment of persons with disabilities. We also appreciate the steps taken by the Government of Belgium with regard to combating prison overcrowding and improving the conditions of detention in penal institutions. Moreover, we applaud the efforts to promote social inclusion, combat any kind of discrimination as well as support disabled people.

Nevertheless, there is still room for further improvement in some areas of human rights.

In this respect, Poland would like to **recommend the Government of Belgium to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.**

At the same time, Poland **recommends the Government of Belgium to introduce a law explicitly prohibiting corporal punishment of children in all settings.**

Furthermore, the Polish delegation would like to **recommend that Belgium engage civil society in the follow-up implementation process of the UPR recommendations.**

Thank you for your attention.