**UPR 27, May 9, 2017**

**Recommendations by Canada for Poland’s UPR**

Canada thanks Poland for its presentation and welcomes its engagement in the Universal Periodic Review process.

Canada recommends that Poland:

1. Take immediate measures to restore the independence, integrity, and effective functioning of the Constitutional Tribunal and its judges, including by amending pertinent legislation.
2. Ensure that safe and legal abortions are available and accessible in practice, in keeping with the *1993 Act on Family Planning* and consistent with Poland’s obligations under Articles 12 and 16 of the *Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women*.
3. Amend the *Penal Code* to ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex persons are fully protected against discrimination, hate speech, and hate crimes based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
4. Repeal the restrictive amendment to the *Law on Assemblies* to restore full freedom of peaceful assembly, in keeping with Poland’s international obligations.

**Observations**

Canada is concerned by reports that the Government of Poland is abusing its parliamentary majority to limit the rights of individuals belonging to minority groups in Poland. As recommended during Poland’s last UPR, Canada urges the Government of Poland to take further measures to enhance the scope of protection of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex persons and to prevent acts of discrimination.