**Universal Periodic Review 27 – Poland**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you Mr. President,

The Netherlands welcomes the delegation of Poland today and thanks the delegation for elaborating on its comprehensive report.

The Netherlands offers Poland the following recommendations:

1. To fully and effectively implement the European Court of Human Rights judgments in the case of RR v Poland and R&S v Poland on the issue of women and girl’s access to sexual and reproductive health care and services.
2. To ensure that any reform of the justice system takes place only after careful consultation with the representatives of the legal professions, and is in line with international standards of judicial independence, described by for example the ICCPR, the UN Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary, the Venice Commission or the CCJE.

Mr. President,

We commend the government of Poland on the recent progress it has made on social welfare. While we welcome the rejection of the draft amendments to the Act on Family Planning and the Penal Code in October 2016, we note that the ECHR judgments regarding this issue have not been implemented as of yet.

As for the reforms of the justice system, we underscore the importance of consultations with independent organizations, such as the Venice Commission, in order to ensure the independence of the judiciary.

Thank you, Mr. President.