*Check against delivery*

**UPR of Belize**

**Statement by the Republic of Poland**

*Monday, 29 January 2024, 14:30-18:00*

*Mr. President,*

Poland thanks Belize for presentation of its national report. We acknowledge activities undertaken by the government of Belize in order to implement recommendations accepted during the previous cycle of UPR.

Poland recommends Belize to:

1. sign and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty;
2. allocate supplementary budgetary resources for the administration of justice to the greatest extent possible in order to prevent delays in the delivery of justice, particularly for those accused of murder;
3. take all necessary measures to put an end to corporal punishment in all settings and that it undertakes awareness-raising campaigns about the harmful effects of corporal punishment.

We appreciate that Belize has established initiatives aimed at addressing critical needs of children and students by ensuring access to free education, providing essential stationery, uniforms, transportation support, and improvements in school infrastructure.

Poland also welcomes that in 2023 Belize launched its first human rights academy, bringing together representatives from the judiciary, human rights agencies, the Belize Police Department, and other government departments, to provide them with tools and techniques to effectively investigate cases of human trafficking.

*Thank you.*