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**UPR of Pakistan**

**Statement by the Republic of Poland**

13th November 2017, Geneva

Mr. President,

Poland would like to thank the delegation of Pakistan for informative national report and for active participation in the third cycle of the UPR process.

We noticed efforts of the Government of Pakistan undertaken to comply with the recommendations accepted during the second cycle of UPR. In particular, Poland welcomes legal actions and awareness raising campaigns introduced to combat violence and discrimination against women in Pakistan. We also appreciate launching the National Action Plan on Human Rights in February 2016.

At the same time, Poland would like to express its concern about high rate of violence and discrimination against religious minorities in Pakistan, particularly Christians.

The Polish delegation would like to present the following recommendations to the Government of Pakistan:

* to continue efforts aiming at empowering women, combating social and economic discrimination, and to protect them from violence, including domestic and sexual violence;
* to strengthen protection of religious minorities, in particular by guaranteeing them freedom of manifesting their religion in teaching, practice, worship, and observance;
* to protect the rights of the child more effectively, particularly during counter-terrorism activities, and by desisting from death sentencing and executing juveniles;
* to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT).

Thank you for your attention.