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**UPR of Sri Lanka**

**Statement by the Republic of Poland**

15th November 2017, Geneva

Mr. President,

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

We welcome actions of the Government of Sri Lanka undertaken to comply with the recommendations accepted during the second cycle of UPR. In particular, Poland commends the development of legal and institutional framework for the promotion and protection of rights of the child, and the human rights education projects i. a. introducing trainings for all law enforcement officers and a school subject called “Think Equal” in all pre-schools in the country.

We also acknowledge Sri Lanka’s efforts relating to reconciliation and transitional justice. At the same time, Poland would like to express its concern about not sufficient protection of religious minorities in Sri Lanka, particularly Christians.

Given the above we recommend the Government of Sri Lanka:

* to strengthen existing law and practice to guarantee the right to freedom of religion or belief for all citizens and residents, in particular by prosecuting and punishing all cases of religiously-motivated violence;
* to continue efforts to protect effectively women, children, and ethnic minorities’ rights, and to combat discrimination they are facing;
* to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT);
* to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

Thank you for your attention.