*Check against delivery*

UPR of the Kingdom of Belgium

Statement by the Republic of Poland

*5th of May 2021, 9.00 hrs, Geneva*

*Speaking time: 55 seconds*

*Madam President,*

Poland thanks Belgium for the presentation of third national report. We acknowledge Belgium’s efforts to comply with previous recommendations and engagement of the civil society in the UPR process. We recommend Belgium:

* **to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;**
* **to effectively address the problem of hate speech at schools and to ensure that the prohibition of exposure of religious symbols does not hinder access to education;**
* **provide a structural response to discriminatory acts towards persons belonging to ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities,** such as ethnic profiling for identity checks by the police or obstacles in access to housing, employment or social benefits.

Poland appreciates strengthened legislative measures aimed at combatting all forms of violence against children and justice system reforms which better safeguard fundamental human rights, especially for individuals deprived of liberty. *Thank you.*