

**STATEMENT**

**41st UPR Session of the Human Rights Council**

**on the human rights situation in Poland,**

**as delivered by Ms Jannicke Graatrud,**

**Minister, Deputy Permanent Representative.**

 Check against delivery

15 November 2022

President,

Norway appreciates Poland's efforts to receive Ukrainian refugees.

[Norway is concerned by developments in Poland relating to the rule of law and judicial independence and respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights.]

Norway recommends that Poland:

1) ensures swift implementation of the relevant ECJ [European Court of Justice] and ECHR [European Court of Human Rights] judgments and the recommendations of the European Commission’s Rule of Law Report to safeguard the rule of law and the independence of the Polish judiciary;

2) adopts a legal framework that fosters a free, independent and pluralistic media, and ensures the protection of journalists from persecution, intimidation and harassment;

3) significantly improves women’s rights by implementing initiatives to prevent domestic and gender-based violence, by changing the legal definition of rape and by reversing the restrictive new abortion law;

4) implements legal and administrative reforms to ensure non-discrimination and full inclusion [into society] of LGBTIQ persons, including combating hate speech and hate crimes, providing legal recognition of same-sex partnerships, legal gender recognition and gender-affirming healthcare for transgender people.

Thank you.