*Check against delivery*

**Universal Periodic Review of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan**

**Statement by the Republic of Poland**

*Monday, 30 January, 9:30 – 12:30*

*Mr. President,*

Poland thanks the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for presenting its national report and for active participation in the fourth cycle of the UPR process.

Poland would like to recommend to Pakistan:

**1.** To fully respect freedom of religion or belief in accordance with international human rights law, in particular by:

* 1. reforming blasphemy laws; especially as regards the existing legal possibility of punishing blasphemy by death, which creates a climate conducive to extrajudicial killings;
  2. repealing other legal provisions discriminating against members belonging to religious minorities, in particular against the Ahmadiyyah minority;
  3. halting abductions, forced marriages and forced conversions of women and girls from religious minorities.

**2.** To further combat violence against women and to ensure protection of their rights, including access to land ownership without discrimination.

**3.** To enforce a uniform minimum age of marriage for both sexes across the country and to take measures to increase school enrolment and reduce dropout rate among girls.

Poland would like to commend Pakistan for recently passing a bill which defines and criminalizes torture. In this context Poland continues to encourage further efforts to prevent and punish torture and to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT).

The delegation of Poland wishes the delegation of Pakistan a successful UPR.

*Thank you.*