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**Universal Periodic Review of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

**Statement of the Republic of Poland**

**31. session of the Human Rights Council Working Group on the UPR**

**Geneva, 5 November 2018, 9.00 hrs**

*President,*

Poland would like to thank the delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its participation in the Universal Periodic Review process. We also thank the Saudi delegation for a thorough presentation of the already third UPR report.

We note progress achieved by Saudi Arabia in range of human rights areas since the presentation of its last UPR national report, including with regard to rights enjoyed by women, strengthening the labour law as well as building an institutional framework on protecting various aspects of social and cultural human rights.

However, despite these efforts undertaken by Saudi Arabia on improving implementation of human rights obligations, we still observe challenges in this field.

Therefore, Poland would like to recommend that Saudi Arabia:

* Implemented genuine, independent, legally-based judicial mechanisms which would allow full inquiry into the case of the killing of Mr Khashoggi but also create a robust general mechanisms protecting the right to expression and holding responsible of extrajudicial killings accountable
* Created legal mechanisms which would allow full, impartial and independent inquires on human rights violations committed by the Coalition Forced while conducting its operations in Yemen accompanied by implementation of on-the-ground, real-time mechanisms which help avoiding or at least limiting the number of innocent civilian victims.

Moreover, we encourage Saudi Arabia to complement its ambitious agenda for sustainable development and of social reforms with steps aimed at introducing moratorium on capital punishment and further expansion of the rights of women and minorities in the country.

*Thank you for your attention.*