**Universal Periodic Review of the Slovak Republic**

**Statement of the Republic of Poland**

**32nd session of the Human Rights Council Working Group on the UPR**

**Geneva, 28 February 2019, 9.00 hrs**

*Mr. President,*

Poland would like to thank the delegation of the Slovak Republic for its active participation in the already third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review process, as well as for an exhaustive presentation of the UPR report.

We noted progress achieved by Slovakia in a wide range of human rights areas since the last review in 2014 and its substantial efforts undertaken in order to comply with the recommendations received. In particular, we commend the relevant new national legislation adopted by the country with regard to the rights enjoyed by children and women and the fight against all forms of extremism, racism and xenophobia, especially in view of the fact that the latter was indicated as a priority of the Slovak membership in the Council.

Nonetheless, there is always room for further improvements to ensure the full respect of human rights. Therefore, with the view of further strengthening the promotion and protection of all human rights in Slovakia, Poland would like to recommend the following:

* **step up efforts to adopt a clear roadmap to sustainable and inclusive education, focusing particularly on children with disabilities and those belonging to minority groups;**
* **in light of recent events, guarantee a safe and secure environment for journalists, including measures that protect them from any act of retaliation and duly address their right to the confidentiality of sources.**

*Thank you for your attention.*