**UPR of Viet Nam**

**Statement by the Republic of Poland**

*22 of January, Geneva*

Mr. President,

Poland would like to thank the delegation of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for its constructive participation and engagement in the UPR process and the presentation of its national report.

Poland notes with appreciation the continued efforts by Viet Nam to improve the protection and promotion of human rights in the country. We welcome the implementation by Viet Nam of some of the UPR recommendations from 2014, such as *inter alia* the ratification of the Convention Against Torture, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and adoption of a number of human rights-related laws such as Law on Children. We commend Viet Nam’s endeavors aiming at ensuring social welfare, improving the living standard of people and promoting sustainable development and we encourage the Vietnamese government to continue these activities.

At the same time Poland would like to express concerns at the reports of violations of civil and political rights guaranteed under ICCPR. We are concerned by the arrests of civil society activists, human rights defenders, religious and political dissidents detained for the peaceful expression of their political opinions or religious beliefs.

Therefore, the delegation of Poland would like to offer the following recommendations to Viet Nam:

* **Release all HRDs as well as political and religious activists detained for the peaceful expression of their political opinions or religious beliefs;**
* **continue to strengthen efforts to protect the fundamental freedoms and rights guaranteed under ICCPR;**
* **ensure full implementation of its international human rights obligations regarding freedom of religion and belief by reviewing the Law on Belief and Religion to bring it into line with Art. 18 of the ICCPR;**
* **take further measures to strengthen the implementation of the rights of the child – increase the legal age of the child from 10 to 18, consider the establishment of Independent Child Rights Monitoring Mechanism.**

Thank you for your attention.