**UPR of Democratic Republic of Congo**

**Statement by the Republic of Poland**

7 May 2019, Geneva

09.00 hrs

Mr. President,

Poland would like to thank the delegation of the Democratic Republic of Congo for its national report and for participation in the third cycle of the UPR process.

Since its last report and on basis on recommendation laid forth, Democratic Republic of Congo has undertaken actions to address the most pressing human rights issues. While not ignoring numerous challenges ahead DRC, a significant probe of progress achieved is the relatively peaceful conduct of the recent general elections in December 2018 and the transition of power.

This positive development should reinvigorate efforts of the DRC government to comprehensively address key human rights issues and work in close cooperation with the international community, especially the UN on these matters. Civil rights and liberties, including freedom of peaceful assembly, should not be limited any more.

Bearing that in mind, Polish delegation would like to present the following recommendations to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo:

* **Undertake legal measures enabling effective protection of minorities, including religious ones, which would be complemented by educational campaign on importance of freedom of religious beliefs.**
* **Continue reforms aimed at building strong civil society, enjoying independent, pluralistic media with free access to public information and legal protection of journalists and human rights defenders.**
* **Continue all possible efforts in adopting legislation and implementing operational frameworks focusing on protecting women and children from violence, including sexual violence and harassment, also in the context of the security sector reform.**
* **Continue utmost effort in providing access of all children to primary and secondary education, eliminate illiteracy and invest in improvement of quality and competences of teachers.**

I thank you.