**UPR of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**Statement by the Republic of Poland**

13th of November 2019, Geneva, 14.30 hrs

*Mr. President,*

Poland would like to thank the delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina for its national report and for participation in the third cycle of the UPR process. We welcome efforts to meet the recommendations accepted by the government in previous cycle.

We commend on Bosnia and Herzegovina for steps undertaken to strengthen the protection and respect for human rights. In this context we welcome the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and implementation of the Action Plan for Children.

Poland notes efforts in establishing the Draft Law on *Amendments to the Law on the Ombudsman for Human Rights* with the aim of ensuring independence in the financing of this institution and envisaging that the Ombudsman should be responsible for the national preventive mechanism under the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture.

At the same time, no State is without challenges when it comes to the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. Therefore, Poland would like to recommend the following:

* continue to raise awareness on the needs of the Roma population, in particular children and women, and establish an adequate system that provides for their social and educational inclusion;
* amend all necessary laws to implement the binding international rulings pertaining to ethnic discrimination in political participation against national minorities;
* step up actions aimed at adoption of the law ensuring independence in the financing of the Ombudsman for Human Rights and entrusting this institution the mantle of power of the national preventive mechanism under the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture.

*I thank you.*