**Universal Periodic Review – 35th session**

**Kingdom of Spain**

**Statement by the Republic of Poland**

*Geneva, 22nd January 2020*

Thank you, Mr. President,

We would like to thank the delegation of the Kingdom of Spain for the presentation of their national report and their participation in the UPR process.

We noted significant progress achieved by Spain in a wide range of human rights areas since the last review in 2015 and its substantial efforts undertaken in order to comply with the recommendations received, in particular in the field of rights of the child, rights of persons with disabilities and freedom of religion and belief. In relation to the present report on the HR situation in Spain Poland would like to commend especially the new developments with regard to the legal framework for combating racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance, a new amendment to the Criminal Code striving to ensure protection from discrimination on such grounds as age, physical appearance or lack of financial means as well as strengthening the legislation on the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls by the adoption of the first National Covenant on Combating Gender-based Violence 2018-22.

We wish to make the following recommendations:

* **Given the considerable progress in building a framework for the comprehensive children protection, to reconsider possibility of constituting a dedicated Office of the Ombudsman for Children;**
* **Given the attention to the topic of prevention of violence against women and girls, to step up efforts to ensure better implementation of legislative measures to combat impunity and provide victims with immediate access to means of redress and protection**

I thank you.