**Questionnaire on the implementation of the GA resolution 68/268 „Strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights body system”**

**Comments on the implementation of the GA resolution 68/268**

Poland would like to welcome the Office’s efforts in preparation of the report on the status of the human rights treaty body system, according to the GA resolution 73/162 on 17 December 2018. The Government of the Republic of Poland provides the following information:

**2. *Encourages* States parties to consider the possibility of using the simplified reporting procedure, when offered, to facilitate the preparation of their reports and the interactive dialogue on the implementation of their treaty obligations;**

*In Poland, the simplified reporting procedure has been so far applied to: 6th Polish report on implementation of the CAT (May 2012), 7th Polish report on implementation of the CAT (February 2018) and 7th Polish report on implementation of the ICCPR (October 2015).*

*In the near future the simplified procedure will be applied to: 2nd and 4th Polish reports on implementation of the CRPD (2026) and also to 5th and 6th Polish reports on implementation of the CRC (2020).*

**3. *Encourages* States parties to consider the possibility of using the simplified reporting procedure, when offered, to facilitate the preparation of their reports and the interactive dialogue on the implementation of their treaty obligations;**

*Poland is currently in the process of updating the common core document lastly presented in 2014.*

**7. *Recommends* the more efficient and effective use of the meetings of States parties, inter alia, by proposing and organizing discussions on matters related to the implementation of each treaty;**

*The Polish Mission in Geneva has regularly and actively participated in briefings for state parties organized by those treaty bodies to which we report.*

**8. *Strongly condemns* all acts of intimidation and reprisals against individuals and groups for their contribution to the work of the human rights treaty bodies, and urges States to take all appropriate action, consistent with the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedomsand all other relevant human rights instruments, to prevent and eliminate such human rights violations;**

*Poland supports cooperation of civil society with the Human Rights Council Special procedures.*

*Poland regularly sponsors the Human Rights Council resolution on Human Rights Defenders. This Norwegian initiative is a response to the situation of human rights defenders in the context of growing cases of persecution, discrimination and violence against members of civil society organizations. Most recently the resolution entitled "****The contribution of environmental rights and sustainable development****" was presented during the 40th session of the HRC in March 2019. It puts special emphasis on human rights defenders working in the field of environment protection.*

*Poland sponsors the UNGA Third Committee biannual resolution on Human Rights Defenders. This is another Norwegian initiative. The last resolution on this topic entitled "****Twentieth anniversary and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms****" was presented during the 72nd session of the UNGA in 2017.*

*Poland also sponsors the Human Rights Council resolution on "****Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights****", drafted by Hungary, Ireland, Uruguay, Fiji and Ghana. The initiative is presented every 2 years, most recently in September 2017 during the 36th session of the Human Rights Council. The resolution confirms the right of every individual to have safe and unrestricted access to international human rights bodies and mechanisms and to communicate with them without threats of intimidation and reprisals.*

**13. *Encourages* States parties, in the election of treaty body experts, to give due consideration, as stipulated in the relevant human rights instruments, to equitable geographical distribution, the representation of the different forms of civilization and the principal legal systems, balanced gender representation and the participation of experts with disabilities in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies;**

*With regard to the election process of the treaty bodies experts, Poland attaches great importance to all principles and criteria of the election procedure stipulated in the relevant human rights instruments.*

**16. *Also decides* to establish word limits for all State party documentation submitted to the treaty body system, including State party reports, of 31,800 words for initial reports, 21,200 words for subsequent periodic reports and 42,400 words for common core documents, as endorsed by the human rights treaty bodies, and calls upon the treaty bodies to set a limit on the number of questions posed, focusing on areas seen as priority issues to ensure the ability of States parties to meet the aforementioned word limits;**

*In the opinion of Poland word limit is a crucial element. At the same time it is important to take into consideration that some reports cover a longer time period, e.g. 8 years. In such cases larger word limits would be needed to present all important elements of national policy.*

**21. *Encourages* Member States to provide voluntary funds to facilitate the engagement of States parties, in particular those without representation in Geneva, with the human rights treaty bodies;**

*The Government of the Republic of Poland regularly provides its voluntary contributions to the United Nations Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights for strengthening the Office and for promotion and protection of the human rights around the world.*