



High-Level Political Forum 2018

23rd meeting: Voluntary national reviews (Individual: Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain)

Voluntary National Review of Poland, July 18th

**Statements prepared by Women's Major Group and Children and Youth Major Group
Presented by Anna Szczegielniak, Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive
Rights and
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Statement 1

Thank you,

We have consulted with various civil society groups, and have collected a list of inquiries in an effort to respectfully address the gaps in Poland's Voluntary National Review.

One of the Polish government's priorities is to reduce social exclusion, poverty and all forms of social inequality, especially in relation to the access of healthcare. We urge Poland to acknowledge and address the needs and experience of marginalized people, as well as incorporate a broader gender perspective, including that of LGBTQIA and others of the most at risk groups. Also, we would like to know whether the Polish government will begin to proactively comply with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to ensure that persons with disabilities are recognized as citizens with rights?

Additionally, Poland reports that it has surpassed other OECD countries in its implementation of SDG 5. However, the government's understanding of gender equality is narrow and its VNR includes no mention of systematic barriers or institutional violence against women. How can Poland respond to the undermining of reproductive rights by limiting access to emergency contraception, plans to restrict access to abortion and failure to implement comprehensive sexuality education?

We note Poland's commitment to the environmental and climate issues and see hosting the December COP24 Forum as a timely opportunity to raise these standards and make real and time-bound commitments. Specifically, we would like to ask the government to clarify what the Just Transitions measures are in the coal industry in Poland, and if there will be dialogue with civil society to ensure a low-emission future.

Finally, affordable housing remains a priority for Polish families. Could the Polish government provide some insight on how the government's National Housing Program addresses the challenge of accessing and creating affordable housing, as a means of improving the quality of life in Poland's urban settlements?

I thank you.

Statement 2

Thank you,

We would like to use this opportunity to voice concerns of civil society in regard to the Polish VNR report. Poland still lacks a procedure for a meaningful and active participation, especially of civil society and youth.

One of the priorities of Poland is to reduce social exclusion, poverty and all kinds of social inequality, especially in access to health care. We urge Poland to adopt better understanding of the character and experience of marginality as well as add wider gender perspective to it, including that of most at risk groups.

Poland reports that it surpasses the implementation of SDG 5 in comparison to other OECD countries however the understanding of gender equality is narrow and with no mention of systematic barriers or institutional violence against women. How can Poland respond to the constant undermining of reproductive rights by limiting access to emergency contraception, plans to restrict access to abortion and failure to implement comprehensive sexuality education?

People with disabilities fail to have its most basic needs met. Poland ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2012. When will Poland start to proactively comply to the Convention to ensure that persons with disabilities are not viewed as mere objects of charities but citizens with rights?

We note Poland's commitment to the environmental and climate issues and see hosting the December COP24 Forum as a timely opportunity to raise these standards on national and international levels and make real and time-bound commitments. Specifically we would like to ask what are the Just Transitions measures in the coal industry in Poland, and is social dialogue taking place as it is imperative on the way to a low-emission future.

Affordable housing remains a priority for Polish families, could the Polish government provide some insight on how the government's National Housing Program addresses the challenge of accessing and creating affordable housing, as a means of improving the quality of life in Poland's urban settlements?

I thank you.