



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, Poland)**

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.