

**Statement by the Republic of Poland**  
**Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2019**  
*Working session 7: Fundamental freedoms I, including freedom of thought, conscience,*  
*religion or belief*  
**19 September 2019**

*Mr Moderator,*

Poland aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. At the same time we wish to offer additional remarks in our national capacity.

Poland expresses deep concern about the raise of religious intolerance. According to different reports it is estimated that one third of the world's population suffers from religious persecution in some form. We also strongly condemn all acts of violence and discrimination based on religion or belief. These concerns stood behind the initiative of Poland to establish International Day on Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence based on Religion or Belief, pronounced by the UN on 22 August.

*Mr Moderator,*

Promotion of religious freedom as well as protection of religious minorities, both in bilateral relations and in multilateral fora, remain at top of Poland's foreign policy: our diplomatic missions abroad monitor the situation on the ground, we actively contribute during the negotiations of documents regarding these issues, we organize meetings and discussions on this topic. It is also one of important thematic issues during our non-permanent membership in the UN Security Council.

We would like to recommend to the OSCE participating States to:

- combat intolerance, discrimination and hate crimes, especially related to a context of religion or belief;
- hold accountable all those responsible for acts of violence on the basis of religion or belief;
- raise the issue of prosecution, discrimination and violence based on religion or belief at international fora and bilateral political dialogues;
- contribute to foster respect and tolerance for religious and cultural diversity both internally and across OSCE area, including through education and awareness raising.

We also encourage OSCE and its autonomous institutions to:

- continue developing projects that aim to promote tolerance and non-discrimination,
- involve in marking yearly observations of the International Day on Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence based on Religion or Belief.

*I thank you.*