

## STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

*Warsaw, 10–21 September 2018*

Closing reinforced plenary session

*Check against delivery*

*Thank you, Madam Director,*

Poland aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU. At the same time, I would like to share additional remarks from the perspective of the host country for ODHIR.

First of all, we would like to express our appreciations to ODIHR's team and you, Director Gisladdottir, personally, for making this conference a successful event. Poland would also like to commend the OSCE Italian Chairmanship for their efforts to highlight the importance of OSCE human dimension activities.

Poland is honoured to host every year Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. This unique event provides valuable platform for all OSCE Participating States and numerous civil society representatives to exchange views on the situation of human rights in the OSCE area.

There was number of important human rights topics on our agenda this year and we had opportunity to discuss challenges and share best solutions. It is important that we continue and remain open to a dialog on human rights issues. We hope that next year we will reach consensus on dates and topics of HDIM without complications and well in advance. In this spirit we look forward to a fruitful cooperation with the Slovak Chairmanship in 2019 and we would like to ensure our Slovak colleagues about our full support.

*Madam Director,*

I would like to conclude by highlighting that 2018 also marks centenary of regaining independence of Poland. It is celebrated by the Polish Parliament as

Year for Rights of Women – in order to remind that the Polish women were entitled to vote already in 1918, just after the recreation of the independent state, and that equality between women and men as well as broad democratic participation of all citizens were values deeply shared by authors of the Polish independence. In this context let me underline that Poland has been and will remain a strong advocate for democracy and human rights.

Thank you to all participants. We look forward to hosting you all next year in Warsaw.

*Thank you.*