



# Assemblée générale

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## Conseil des droits de l'homme

### Quatorzième session

Point 3 de l'ordre du jour

**Promotion et protection de tous les droits de l'homme,  
civils, politiques, économiques, sociaux et culturels,  
y compris le droit au développement**

### **Note verbale en date du 18 août 2010, adressée au Haut- Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme par la Mission permanente de Pologne auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève**

La Mission permanente de la République de Pologne auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève présente ses compliments au Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme et, se référant à sa note n° 548/ML/2010 du 30 juin 2010, a l'honneur de lui faire tenir ci-joint les observations\* du Gouvernement polonais concernant le rapport du Rapporteur spécial sur le droit qu'a toute personne de jouir du meilleur état de santé physique et mental possible, M. Anand Grover (A/HRC/14/20/Add.3). Elle demande que ces observations soient incluses dans la documentation de la quatorzième session du Conseil des droits de l'homme et soient affichées sur le site Web du Haut-Commissariat en tant qu'élément de la position du Gouvernement polonais.

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\* Ces observations sont reproduites telles qu'elles ont été reçues, dans la langue originale seulement.

## Annexe

### **Additional remarks of the Polish Government to the Report of the Special Rapporteur Mr. Anand Grover, as presented by the Delegate of the Government of the Republic of Poland at the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Human Rights Council**

The Polish Government regrets that the Special Rapporteur did not mention the fact that during the last twenty years in Poland infant mortality rate fell by 71% and the maternal mortality dropped even more considerably, by more than 82%. The latter figure contradicts the assumption of the Report that the liberalization of abortion improves maternal health. The abortion was accessible for social and economic reasons from 1956 to 1993, and this possibility was repealed by the new *Act on Family Planning, Protection of the Human Foetus and Conditions of Permissible Termination of Pregnancy*. Polish experience proves at least that there is no simple correlation between liberalization of abortion and improvement of maternal health, as well as that this relation may be inversely proportional. To conclude, maternal health depends on overall medical conditions.

In the context of legal conditions concerning termination of pregnancy Poland would like to reiterate that there is no universal right to abortion and the regulation of that issue is of the exclusive competence of States. That principle was included in international documents, such as Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. Moreover, the ICPD Programme of Action underlines the full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of people in every country as a crucial element of implementing reproductive health policies. Concerning all activities of international community in the field of reproductive health, Poland recalls that our understanding of the concept of sexual and reproductive health remains such as it was agreed in the ICPD.

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