



Asamblea General

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Consejo de Derechos Humanos

14º período de sesiones

Tema 3 de la agenda

**Promoción y protección de todos los derechos humanos,
civiles, políticos, económicos, sociales y culturales,
incluido el derecho al desarrollo**

Nota verbal de fecha 18 de agosto de 2010 dirigida a la Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos por la Misión Permanente de Polonia

La Misión Permanente de la República de Polonia ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra saluda atentamente a la Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos (ACNUDH) y, en referencia a su nota N° 548/ML/2010 de 30 de junio de 2010, tiene el honor de adjuntarle las observaciones adicionales* del Gobierno de Polonia al informe del Relator Especial sobre el derecho de toda persona al disfrute del más alto nivel posible de salud física y mental, Sr. Anand Grover (A/HRC/14/20/Add.3). La Misión Permanente de Polonia pide al ACNUDH que incluya estas observaciones en la documentación del 14º período de sesiones del Consejo de Derechos Humanos y las publique en su sitio web como parte integrante de la posición del Gobierno de Polonia.

* El texto se reproduce en el anexo como se recibió, en el idioma en que se presentó solamente.

Anexo

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 14th 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 The abortion was accessible for social and economic reasons from 1956 to 1993, and this possibility was repealed by the new *Act on Family Planning, Protection of the Human Foetus and Conditions of Permissible Termination of Pregnancy*.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.
