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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)/Council
Subject:	European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 21/2023 on the Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls - Draft Council conclusions - Statement by Poland

Statement by Poland on the draft Council conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 21/2023 on the Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls

Equality between women and men is enshrined in the treaties of the European Union as a fundamental right. Poland ensures equality between women and men within the Polish national legal system in accordance with international human rights treaties and within the framework of the fundamental values and principles of the European Union.

For these reasons, the expression "gender equality" will be interpreted by Poland as referring to the equality between women and men, in accordance with Article 2 and 3 of the Treaty on European Union and Article 8, 153 and 157 para. 3 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. In connection with the above, the remaining expressions containing the term "gender" will be interpreted by Poland as "sex", in accordance with Article 10, Article 19 para 1 and Article 157 para 2 and 4 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

While Poland joins consensus on the Council Conclusions we do not consider its specific elements mentioned above as an agreed language and basis for any future negotiations.