



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
15 November 2016

Original: English

UNEDITED VERSION

Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Twenty-sixth session
Geneva, 31 October-11 November 2016

Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Lithuania

* The annex to the present report is circulated as received

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-sixth session from 31st October to 11 November 2016. The review of Lithuania was held at the 6th meeting on 2 November 2016. The delegation of Lithuania was headed by Vice-Minister of Justice, Mr. Paulius Gričiūnas. At its 10th meeting held on 4 November 2016, the Working Group adopted the report on Lithuania.
2. On 12 January 2016, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Lithuania: El Salvador, Georgia and Qatar.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Lithuania:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/26/LTU/1);
 - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/26/LTU/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/26/LTU/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Lithuania through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the UPR.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation reaffirmed the commitment of Lithuania to the universal periodic review as a unique procedure for the assessment of the human rights situation of every member state of the United Nations. Universality and inclusiveness of this review process had reflected the nature of human rights. It also reassured the commitment of Lithuania to the promotion and protection of human rights at the national and international level. Since regaining its independence from the Soviet Union, Lithuania had ratified all core human rights instruments and ensured compliance of its legislation with the international human rights standards. The recommendations received during the first review provided a positive impetus to the process of improvement of national legislation, policies and programmes in human rights field and of identification of remaining challenges and possible solutions.
6. The national report was prepared by taking into account the status of the implementation of the recommendations of the first review and in consultation with civil society. The Ministry of Justice, the coordinating body for the preparation of the national report, held annual and thematic meetings among the national authorities and non-governmental organisations to ensure a comprehensive dialogue with representatives of civil society, who provided in-depth analysis and suggestions regarding the implementation of those recommendations. Additionally, the first draft of the national report was shared

with non-governmental organisations (NGO) and their feedback was reflected in the final report.

7. Lithuania had pursued effective participation of non-governmental organisations in decision-making process in the area of human rights. The newly established NGO Council was delegated to assist in achieving this objective. In 2013, Parliament adopted a law on NGOs with an aim to build the favourable environment for civil society organisations and ensure appropriate conditions for their activities. Since 2014, the NGO Council, an advisory body consisting of representatives of state institutions and non-governmental organisations, had been active to ensure the engagement of civil society representatives in developing and implementing policies related to their activities.

8. The delegation reported on a number of positive developments that were documented since the first review held in 2011. In 2015, the Seimas Ombudsperson's Office applied for accreditation as a national human rights institution under the Paris Principles. Since 2014, the Office had been acting as a national preventive mechanism under OP-CAT. The new department on national minorities at the Government, that started its activities in 2015, was tasked to create conditions for inclusive participation by members of national minorities in the social, political and cultural life of the country.

9. Lithuania had actively implemented its gender equality policy to combat discrimination against women and increased their participation in all levels of governance. Gender equality had been also a priority issue in the foreign policy. The President of Lithuania took a lead among the world leaders by personally engaging in the strengthening of the protection and promotion of the rights of women. In September 2016 the President chaired an event of Heads of States and Organisations on the economic cost of violence against women on the side lines of the United Nations General Assembly, where broad commitment was made by a number of members of the United Nations to eliminate violence against women. Equal rights and equal opportunities for every individual had been one of the principal priorities in the National Programme on Equal Opportunities for 2012-2016. The fourth National Programme on Equal Opportunities was approved in 2015.

10. The Roma community continues to be in the focus of the State policy on national minorities having in mind the fact that the Roma, until now, remained one of the most socially disadvantaged groups. Four successive programmes for the integration of Roma into the society, including the municipal programme for the integration of the Roma in Vilnius Kirtimai Settlement for 2016-2019 had been or still is being implemented to address social exclusion, education and health problems of the Roma and to preserve their culture and traditions, and promote tolerance in the society.

11. Furthermore, the Government, in 2015, approved an Inter-institutional Action Plan for Promoting Non-Discrimination to reduce discrimination, ensure equal opportunities, raise awareness and promote tolerance. The delegation highlighted the Baltic pride parade organized by non-governmental organizations working on LGBTI rights in 2016 as a positive development. Unlike previous years, the Baltic Pride Parade was organized without any obstacles, attracted broad attention and was attended by public officials and members of the Parliament. In the Human Rights Council, Lithuania supported the establishment of the mandate of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. In 2016, the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson together with the National Equality and Diversity Forum for the third time issued the National Equality and Diversity Awards to people and organizations who had excelled at promoting equality and non-discrimination. These awards mark an important milestone in awareness raising and fighting LGBTI discrimination in Lithuania.

12. The delegation stated that the newly adopted Labour Code, stipulated the principle of gender equality and non-discrimination and forbade direct and indirect discrimination on various grounds, including sexual orientation.
13. In October, 2016, the Ministry of Education and Science adopted a new compulsory programme on the health, sexuality and family life education as a compulsory course for primary and secondary education.
14. While noting information on the implementation of CRPD in the national report, the delegation indicated the adoption of the action plan for the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Subsequently, the draft action plan for the period of 2016-2020 was prepared. The Civil Code was amended to introduce a new approach in the assessment of capacity of persons with disabilities and new measures to provide them with support in decision making. The underlying rationale of the new law was that legal capacity should be preserved as much as possible and the required support should be provided to a person in his or her exercise of rights.
15. A draft law containing disability and age as prohibited grounds of discrimination punished under the Criminal Code was approved by the Government. The Code of Administrative Offences, entering into force in 2017, foresaw hatred as an aggravating circumstance.
16. As a result of the 2015 reforms of penitentiary system, no establishment of deprivation of liberty remained overcrowded and the prison population constituted 75 per cent of the total capacity of those establishments. The Government had been carrying out the renovation of those institutions and opened a new hospital for the penitentiary system.
17. Lithuania had been conducting strategic reforms to eradicate corruption and thus, it had improved its score in the world corruption perception index - 61 as opposed to 50 in 2011. Since 2013, Lithuania had been actively participating in the OECD Working Group on Bribery and had been seeking full member status in it.
18. The delegation expressed the commitment of the Government to accept more refugees from other EU member states. . In the framework of the EU relocation and resettlement scheme, Lithuania had agreed to accept 1105 refugees. Migrants and refugees from the third countries, possessing a Lithuanian residence permit would be able to join the labour market and to integrate into public life due to the social assistance and integration measures. Additional funding had been envisaged in the national budget for 2017 to meet the needs of refugees.
19. The Seimas Ombudsperson's Office had submitted an application for accreditation as a national human rights institution in December 2015. The decision to apply for accreditation was made after thorough consultations with different stakeholders to assess if legal amendments would be needed to ensure the Office's compliance with the Paris Principles. The date of the review of the application for the status of the Office would be scheduled in November 2016.
20. The Office had also been designated as the national preventive mechanism pursuant to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. During the past three years it had undertaken more than 120 visits to places of detention and submitted more than 300 recommendations to State and municipal institutions concerning, *inter alia*, living conditions in prison services, health-care services for detainees and prisoners, out-of-cell activities, protection against ill-treatment and rehabilitation. The Office also advocated improvements in conditions in mental institutions, including minimum living space for patients, the right to privacy, registration of cases of physical restraint and analysis of complaints or requests. The Office's recommendations concerning social care institutions

had led to an amendment of the legislation on social services and an improvement in the quality of the services provided. However, improvements were still needed in the quality of services provided to people with disabilities.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

21. During the interactive dialogue, 64 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

22. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela appreciated the ratification of the CRPD and its protocol during the period under review as well as the availability of special services for persons with disabilities. It noted with appreciation the reduction in illiteracy rates among the Roma and increase of the rate of Roma children in primary school.

23. Afghanistan praised Lithuania's ratification of OP-CAT and the CED and its implementation of the fourth national programme on equal opportunities for women and men. Afghanistan praised Lithuania for surpassing many European countries in terms of equal wages for men and women.

24. Albania commended Lithuania for continuing cooperation with international human rights protection organizations and for becoming party to the ICPPED and the OP-CAT. It invited Lithuania to strengthen its human rights mechanisms.

25. Andorra welcomed the measures taken by Lithuania against domestic and gender-based violence, including the signing of the Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention and changes to the Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes in 2015. It noted the efforts to improve the system for the protection of children's rights.

26. Argentina welcomed the ratification of further international human rights instruments by Lithuania and encouraged it to accede to those to which it was not yet a party. It highlighted some of the plans adopted by Lithuania in combatting discrimination.

27. Armenia welcomed the measures taken by the Government for the promotion of equality between men and women and those taken against domestic violence. Armenia noted with appreciation that Lithuania had provided human rights technical assistance in the countries of the Eastern Partnership of the European Union, in particular in Armenia.

28. Australia welcomed the National Roma Integration Strategy. It expressed concern about poor conditions, excessive use of force and overcrowding in prison and detention centres and about the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBTI) people in Lithuania.

29. Azerbaijan commended Lithuania for strengthening its normative and institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights and for the ratification of OPCAT and the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. Azerbaijan welcomed the application of the national human rights institution for accreditation.

30. Belarus noted the experience of Lithuania in conducting thematic consultations with non-governmental organizations as well as progress achieved in the implementation of the recommendations of the first review to combat trafficking in human beings and to combat domestic violence and violence against women. Belarus was concerned about numerous incidents of hate speech in the media and in the statements of some politicians.

31. Belgium welcomed the steps taken by Lithuania regarding recommendations accepted by it in the first review. It stated that there was still room for improvement. It was concerned, in particular, about the high prevalence of domestic violence against women and increasingly negative attitudes towards LGBTI persons.

32. Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomed steps to strengthen the strong foundation for the protection of human rights, in particular the ratification of the ICPED and OP-CAT and commended the improvement and strengthening of the legal framework on combating violence against women, continued efforts to prevent violence against women and assistance to victims of violence.
33. Brazil acknowledged Lithuania's progress in fighting violence against women and addressing domestic violence, noting that explicit criminalization of marital rape could further improve the promotion and protection of women's human rights. Brazil expressed concern about reports of unlawful detention of asylum seekers and irregular migrants and with the situation of refugees.
34. Canada welcomed the legislation passed by Lithuania that safeguarded fundamental freedoms, including the Law on Equal Treatment and the Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men. It stressed the importance of continuing efforts to fully implement legislation that combats anti-Semitism and promotes and enforces the rights of the child and of persons with disabilities.
35. Chile recognized the progress made by the Government, including the ratification of further instruments and the adoption of the plans of action, such as those on the integration of Roma. It appreciated the amendments to the Penal Code aimed at eradicating violence against women and domestic violence.
36. China appreciated Lithuania's efforts to implement the National Programme on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, the adoption of the amendments to the Penal and Criminal Procedure Codes and initiatives taken to combat violence against women and domestic violence. It appreciated measures to protect the rights of children.
37. Costa Rica encouraged Lithuania to ratify OP-ICESCR. It was concerned that Lithuania had not established a national human rights institution in line with Paris Principles. It was concerned about reports of abuse of children with mental disability, corporal punishment and about violence against children in the home, domestic violence, discrimination against minority groups and the high suicide rate and abortions among young persons.
38. Croatia commended Lithuania for the amendments to the Criminal and the Criminal Procedure Codes to strengthen the fight against violence against women and domestic violence and to ensure efficient assistance to the victims. It encouraged the Government to accelerate its efforts in the protection of gender-based violence and in criminalizing marital rape.
39. The Czech Republic made a statement and recommendations.
40. Egypt welcomed the legal amendments to counter domestic violence and to address gender pay gap for work of equal value. Egypt remained concerned about intolerance and increasing number of the hate crimes, racism and xenophobia.
41. Estonia noted with appreciation that Lithuania was a party to the core human rights treaties and fully cooperated with United Nations special procedures. It welcomed achievements in the field of gender equality and the protection of the rights of women and of persons belonging to national minorities. It encouraged Lithuania to involve civil society in development, implementation and evaluation of anti-trafficking policy.
42. Finland noted improvements in sexual and reproductive health and rights. It noted with satisfaction that Lithuania included non-governmental organisations of persons with disabilities in the development of the national programme for the social integration of persons with disabilities.

43. France welcomed Lithuania's ratification of the ICPPED and the OP-CAT during the reporting period.
44. Georgia welcomed Lithuania's ratification of OP-CAT, and its efforts towards the establishment of a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles. Georgia noted technical assistance projects provided by Lithuania in other countries, including Georgia and measures taken to improve protection system for the rights of children.
45. Germany was concerned at the lack of progress regarding the reduction of the above-average long prison sentences and the improvement of prison conditions in Lithuania.
46. The delegation stated that the rights of persons belonging to ethnic minorities, including their language, religion, culture and identity, were guaranteed by the Constitution and domestic legislation. Priority was given to the creation of a harmonious environment for the integration of ethnic minorities into Lithuanian society and to the preservation of their national identity, language and culture, inter alia through a tolerance promotion programme. The most explicit proof of the granted political right is the Polish minority, which shared responsibility for governing the country for 2 years. Representatives of national minorities were well represented in the newly elected Parliament. The Department of National Minorities had been established in 2015. The draft Law on National Minorities has passed through two of the three steps of the adoption procedure at the Parliament, raised sensitive issues that required mutual agreement of all stakeholders.
47. Members of major national minorities could study in their native languages from kindergarten to university. The minority language schools receive 20 per cent more funding. The first meetings of an Advisory Committee established by the Department of National Minorities in 2016, had focused on the native language maturity examination. The Ministry of Education held regular meetings with representatives of national minorities.
48. According to the 2011 population census, there were 2,115 Roma living in Lithuania, of whom 93.3 per cent had Lithuanian citizenship. Two Roma integration programmes were being implemented. The levels of Roma illiteracy and incomplete primary education had declined from 47 per cent in 2001 to 8 per cent in 2015. Seminars were held for teachers of Roma children. Special measures were being taken to promote the integration of Roma children living in the Kirtimai settlement.
49. The unemployment of the Roma had decreased during the reporting period. European Union funds were allocated to projects to integrate Roma into the labour market. Vilnius Municipality provided social housing for Roma families living in the Kirtimai settlement. In 2015, 89 per cent of the Roma population benefited from compulsory health insurance. Persistent high negative attitudes to the Roma were being tackled by the Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsman and non-governmental organisations.
50. The number of migrants and refugees arriving to Lithuania had increased. Additionally, in 2015 the Government had launched a program to help persons of Lithuanian descent and their family members to relocate from regions of Ukraine to Lithuania after complicated security and humanitarian situation in and around of Ukraine. The Law on the Legal Status of Aliens had been amended in late 2015 to align it with the Common European Asylum System. A Commission for the Coordination of the Relocation of Aliens had also been established.
51. With a view to integrating foreigners who had been granted asylum, Lithuania provided them with temporary accommodation at the Refugees Reception Centre, where they received monthly allowances for food and minor expenses, and access to education, employment, social welfare and healthcare. NGOs provided support for the integration of

foreigners in different municipal communities. Public awareness campaigns were organized to promote tolerance and mutual understanding in the society. Lithuania had been allocated €8.1 million from the European Union Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund for its national programme for the period 2014-2020.

52. Guatemala was concerned at reports according to which national ethnic minorities in Lithuania had been victims of stereotypes and racial discrimination, and the fact that there were not long-term strategies in place to combat such practices.

53. Haiti noted the adoption of the Action Plan for Roma Integration for 2015–2020, the bill on Employment, and the fact that persons with disabilities were better integrated into society, in particular in decision-making process.

54. Hungary welcomed Lithuania's acceptance of many of recommendations of the first review and praised the ratification of OP-CAT and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, resulting in reduced residency requirements for stateless some persons. It welcomed the new action plan for integration of the Roma community and noted high figures of human trafficking.

55. Indonesia commended Lithuania for its efforts in mainstreaming human rights in all government programmes, enhancing efforts towards achieving gender equality, engaging civil society and in improving the system for the protection of the rights of the child.

56. The Islamic Republic of Iran was concerned about systematic violations of the rights of minorities, hate speech by politicians, discrimination against Roma children, the high rate of violence against women, child abuse and human trafficking.

57. Iraq praised Lithuania for the adoption of laws to implement international conventions and for the inclusion of human rights in its national programmes for 2012-2016. It welcomed the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the improvement of reception services for foreigners.

58. Ireland reiterated its call to Lithuania for the establishment of an independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles. It welcomed the adoption of the National Programme for the Prevention of Domestic Violence. It shared the concerns of the Human Rights Committee regarding increasing negative attitudes and actions directed at members of the LGBTI community.

59. Israel noted the measures taken by Lithuania to address hate crimes of various types, inter alia, through the focus on the training of law enforcement officials, in the proper handling of such crimes. It was encouraged by the implementation of the Programme of Social Integration of Persons with Disabilities.

60. Italy commended the adoption of the fourth National Plan on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men and of the National Programme for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and associated measures. It encouraged Lithuania to continue deepening progress on fighting violence against women and domestic violence.

61. Kyrgyzstan welcomed the strengthening of the legislative framework, the ratification of some human rights instruments and practical measures to promote and protect human rights.

62. Latvia commended Lithuania for its contribution to the promotion of freedom of assembly and of association through its active involvement in the Human Rights Council. It noted measures taken to strengthen the equality among men and women. Latvia requested some details on measures taken to strengthen the cooperation between national and local government to implement human rights standards.

63. Libya welcomed the commitment of Lithuania to cooperate with the universal periodic review and praised its efforts to implement a number of recommendations accepted during its first review in the field of human rights and rule of law.

64. The Maldives commended Lithuania's progress in gender equality promotion, including equal pay for equal work, and the implementation of the National Programme for the Prevention of Domestic Violence in 2014-2015. The Maldives appreciated Lithuania's efforts to improve detention conditions, including the Programme for Optimisation of Police Detention Facility Performance (2009-2015).

65. Panama noted Lithuania's accession to the International Convention for the protection of All Persons against Enforced Disappearance and measures for preventing domestic violence, sexual exploitation of minors, child pornography and trafficking in persons. It was concerned about reports of stereotyping and racism against ethnic minorities, migrants and refugees.

66. Montenegro commended Lithuania for its commitment to advance gender equality, for its efforts to train employers in the private and public sectors on equal pay for equal work, combat and investigate violence against women, and protect the victims. It was concerned about child abuse in care institutions and the lack of opportunities for children.

67. Mozambique commended Lithuania for the progresses it made in particular regarding gender equality, including equal wage for women and men; domestic and gender based violence, and the rights of minorities. Mozambique noted the fourth National Programme on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men (2015-2021) and legislative measures related to pre-trial investigation.

68. Namibia commended Lithuania on the adoption of the Action Plan on Non-discrimination (2015) and the approval of the Action Plan for Roma integration (2015-2020). Namibia noted actions taken by the Minister of Justice in the area of human rights. Namibia was concerned at wage gap among women and men.

69. The Netherlands was concerned at the increasing negative attitudes against and stigmatization of LGBTI persons. It welcomed the creation of an inter-institutional cooperation mechanism to improve protection of human rights defenders and considered that further measures could be put in place.

70. Lithuania stated that the number of prison inmates had been reduced from 10,000 to 7,000 in recent years. The decline was partly due to the imposition of alternative sanctions. Thus, there had been a shift of paradigm by moving from the use of deprivation of liberty as a primary penalty to alternative sanctions.

71. A number of important amendments to the Criminal Code concerning hate crimes had been adopted in 2009. Several training events on legal instruments prohibiting racial discrimination were organised for public officials. A Memorandum of Understanding had been signed between the Police Department and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in 2015 on training programmes for police officers on combating hate crime and application of the relevant provisions of the Criminal Code. A project entitled "Innovative development of intercultural competences for police officers" focusing on equality and non-discrimination had been implemented in 2013-2014 by the Vilnius Office of the International Organization for Migration and the Police Department. Two other police training courses conducted in 2011-2012 were entitled "Peculiarities of communication with victims" and "Promotion of non-discrimination: implementation of equal opportunities policy". In 2013 and 2014 the Office of the Prosecutor General, in cooperation with the Lithuanian Bar Association, had implemented the HELP anti-discrimination training programme for prosecutors and lawyers based on relevant case law of the European Court of Human Rights.

72. Hate crimes that occurred in Lithuania included racially, ethnically, nationally and religiously motivated offences, xenophobic, anti-Semitic and homophobic incidents, and hate speech. The number of offences registered had declined that was attributable to the improved skills of law enforcement officers, preventive measures such as dissemination in the media of information concerning investigations of hate crimes and relevant court decisions, and the organization of anti-discrimination programmes by public institutions and NGOs.

73. Lithuania strongly supported the work of human rights NGOs and gave a high importance to the cooperation of the Government with those organisations. A National Equality and Diversity Forum created in 2010 brought together NGOs engaged in combating discrimination against vulnerable groups and discrimination based on gender, disability, sexual orientation, age, religion or belief, and racial or ethnic origin. In January 2015 the Government had adopted an Inter-institutional Action Plan on Non-discrimination for the period 2015-2020. The objectives of the Action Plan were to reduce discrimination on the aforementioned grounds by public awareness-raising, enhancement of respect, promotion of the work of human rights defenders operating in the area of non-discrimination and equality, and support for the annual National Equality and Diversity Awards.

74. The legislation afforded protection against inequality and discrimination. The new Labour Code enshrined the principles of equality of opportunities, equal treatment of men and women in employment, and equal pay for work of equal value. The principle of respect for employees' family responsibilities had also been enshrined in national legislation. Employers were required to respect employees' right to return, after maternity, paternity or parental leave, to the same post or to an equivalent post with no less favourable working conditions. Furthermore, greater flexibility was offered to mothers and fathers who wished to engage in part-time work by providing for flexible or individual working hours. Thus, the new legislation required employers to assist employees in fulfilling their family responsibilities.

75. With a view to achieving gender equality at the local level, training programmes for employers had been organized by NGOs together with the Ministry of Social Security and Labour. Under the new national legislation, employers in workplaces where the average number of employees exceeded 50 were required to adopt and publish measures aimed at implementing the equal opportunities policy.

76. Norway noted the implementation of legislation on domestic violence and stated that follow up was needed to secure the necessary resources and capacity. It encouraged awareness-raising concerning domestic violence, including violence against children and the speedy implementation of the process of de-institutionalization.

77. Pakistan welcomed the establishment of national mechanism to protect and promote human rights. It noted development of various national plans to implement the rights to health and education, of women, children and of persons with disabilities. It appreciated the efforts to ensure protection from domestic violence and to integrate the Roma minority.

78. Mexico acknowledged progress regarding gender equality and elimination of violence against women. While welcoming measures taken to protect the rights of LGBTI persons, Mexico believed that Lithuania could improve its legislative framework on domestic violence, and make further progress on combating discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

79. The Philippines welcomed Lithuania's efforts to deal with domestic and gender-based violence. It expressed concern about pay gap for the work of same value and asked how Lithuania had been addressing it. The Philippines enquired about reasons for the failure to establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles.

80. Poland acknowledged the efforts taken to implement recommendations of the first review. It raised some issues with regard to the situation of persons belonging to national minorities in Lithuania.

81. Portugal welcomed the fact that Lithuania's Ombudsperson's Office had applied for the United Nations accreditation as a national human rights institution under the Paris Principles. It commended Lithuania for its national programme for preventing domestic violence, its efforts to combat xenophobia, racism, hate speech and discrimination in the media and in public.

82. Romania commended Lithuania for various programmes adopted to promote and protect human rights and for strengthening central-local government cooperation in implementing human rights standards. It encouraged Lithuania to expand its national human rights instruments.

83. The Russian Federation was concerned at an increase in manifestation of nationalism and neo-Nazism, racism and xenophobia, at the absence of a law on national minorities and at attempts of the Government to censor the media. The Government's policy to making heroes out of those Lithuanians who supported German Nazis was disturbing.

84. Saudi Arabia welcomed progress made by Lithuania in the area of human rights since its first review. It expressed concern at the increase in the number of hate crimes and discrimination against asylum seekers and Muslims.

85. Serbia commended the efforts in addressing the challenges regarding the administration of justice, prevention of torture and improving prison conditions. It encouraged Lithuania to strengthen the independent and oversight institutions. Serbia welcomed the activities to combat human trafficking and commended Lithuania's intention to adopt a law on minorities.

86. Slovenia commended Lithuania for the ratification of the OP-CAT and protocols no. 15 and 16 of the European Convention on Human Rights, the establishment of the department on national minorities and for introduction of training programmes for police on combating hate crimes and legal education for schools. Slovenia noted persistent challenges in the area of equality and non-discrimination.

87. Spain appreciated Lithuania's commitment to reduce poverty and social exclusion, and to improve education and access to health. It was concerned that Civil Code allowed persons with disabilities, lacking legal capacity to undergo surgical procedures without their consent with the authorization of courts. It urged Lithuania to make progress regarding protection of the rights of LGBTI persons.

88. Sweden noted that the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence did not ensure protection of children against corporal punishment; that the Istanbul Convention had not yet been ratified and that negative attitude towards LGBTI persons prevailed.

89. Switzerland welcomed progress made in the area of the rights of women, particularly the National Programme on Equal Opportunities among women and men (2015-2021). Switzerland was concerned at discriminatory speeches, legislation and practices regarding sexual orientation and gender identity despite recommendations received by Lithuania during its first review.

90. Tajikistan noted Lithuania's efforts to cooperate with international human rights organizations, to strength its compliance with international human rights instruments; and to improve national legislation. Tajikistan welcomed the national programme for equal opportunities and public awareness campaign in this respect, and efforts to combat violence against women and domestic violence.

91. Timor-Leste commended Lithuania for adopting the Inter-institutional Action Plan on Non-discrimination and the Action Plan for Roma Integration. It noted with appreciation that human rights issues were included in the Government programme, a human rights training organized by the Ministry of Justice, and the establishment of the department of national minorities. Timor-Leste was concerned at violence against women with disabilities.
92. Turkey commended Lithuania for its achievements in the area of gender equality, persons with disabilities, welfare of children, fight against trafficking in human beings and improvement of prison conditions. Turkey welcomed the reestablishment of the department of national minorities.
93. Ukraine commended Lithuania for incorporating main human rights values in its government programmes and its cooperation with human rights mechanisms of the United Nations and European institutions. It noted its assistance to its national minorities, technical assistance in the area of human rights provided to other countries and its financial contribution to the OHCHR.
94. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed the efforts of Lithuania to tackle domestic violence and trafficking in human beings. It also welcomed the establishment of the Department of National Minorities to focus on policy implementation and commended the successful hosting of Baltic Pride in 2016.
95. The United States of America welcomed Lithuania's reforms on children in institutional care, its efforts to address domestic violence and its inter-ministerial coordination of anti-trafficking efforts. It was concerned about widespread domestic violence, insufficient funding of trafficking victim protection, prejudice against LGBTI persons and lack of non-discriminatory access to housing for Roma persons.
96. Uruguay noted with appreciation the ratification of the OP-CAT and ICPED. It noted the efforts to implement the recommendations of the first review, including those calling for combatting domestic and gender-based violence. Noting that corporal punishment of children was legally prohibited in Lithuania, it encouraged the authorities to enforce the legislation in practice.
97. Algeria welcomed the priority given to human rights in the Government's plan of action in the period 2012-2016 as well as the adoption of the inter-institutional Plan of Action against Discrimination and the Fourth National Equality Plan (2015-2021).
98. The delegation stated that Lithuania, which had sustained great losses during the Second World War, severely condemned Nazi crimes and ideology. Lithuania had suffered from occupation and persecution by the Nazi and Soviet totalitarian regimes. It cherished the memory of all victims of those regimes and paid tribute to those who had fought against tyranny and oppression, including members of the anti-Nazi and anti-Soviet resistance. The Criminal Code defined as a criminal offence the act of condoning, denying or grossly trivializing genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes committed by the Nazi and Soviet regimes. Lithuania would continue to prosecute persons suspected of committing crimes against humanity, regardless of the ideology underlying those crimes or the flag under which they were committed.
99. In conclusion, the delegation reaffirmed its commitment to the promotion and protection of all human rights. Lithuania invested a great deal of effort into improving its legislation and practices in diverse areas and regarded the comments and advice received from delegations and civil society representatives during its second review as an important tool for achieving further improvements.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

100. The following recommendations will be examined by Lithuania which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-fourth session of the Human Rights Council in March 2017.

- 100.1. Ratify the International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICRMW) (Egypt) (Uruguay);
- 100.2. Accede to ICRMW (Turkey);
- 100.3. Ratify promptly ICRMW (Guatemala);
- 100.4. Consider signing and ratifying ICRMW (Indonesia);
- 100.5. Consider ratifying ICRMW (Philippines) (Albania);
- 100.6. Consider ratifying ILO Convention 189 (Philippines);
- 100.7. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (OP-ICESCR) (Belgium) (Montenegro) (Spain);
- 100.8. Ratify OP-ICESCR and accept its investigation and inter-state communication procedures (Uruguay);
- 100.9. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (OP-CRC-IC) (Andorra); (Spain);
- 100.10. Consider ratifying OP-CRC-IC (Albania);
- 100.11. Ratify ILO Convention 189 on Domestic Workers (Panama);
- 100.12. Consider ratifying the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Albania);
- 100.13. Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Panama);
- 100.14. Accede to the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Iraq);
- 100.15. Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Andorra) (Canada) (Italy);
- 100.16. Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence¹ (Belgium 1);
- 100.17. Ratify the Istanbul Convention of the Council of Europe on violence against women and domestic violence (Turkey);
- 100.18. Ratify without delay the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and expedite the harmonization of legislation in accordance with it (Bosnia and Herzegovina);

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited

¹ The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: Criminalize domestic violence and marital rape and ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

- 100.19. **Expedite the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention)² (Sweden 1);**
- 100.20. **Harmonize its legislation in accordance with the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention) without delay³ (Sweden 1);**
- 100.21. **Sign, ratify and implement the provisions of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (Poland);**
- 100.22. **Ratify the European Charter on Regional and Minority Languages⁴ (Croatia 2);**
- 100.23. **Continue its accession to the core international human rights instruments (Azerbaijan);**
- 100.24. **Establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Egypt) (Algeria);**
- 100.25. **Establish a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Timor-Leste);**
- 100.26. **Establish an independent national human rights institution in full compliance with the Paris principles (Ukraine);**
- 100.27. **Step up efforts towards establishment of a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Philippines);**
- 100.28. **Conclude the accreditation of the National Human Rights Institution, endowing it with a broad mandate, in line with the Paris Principles (Turkey);**
- 100.29. **Accelerate the efforts to establish a national human rights institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Azerbaijan);**
- 100.30. **Establish an independent National Human Rights Institution in line with the Paris Principles, with a mandate and resources to investigate complaints of human rights violations (Canada);**
- 100.31. **Establish a national human rights institution with a broad mandate and sufficient resources, in consistence with the Paris Principles, that includes a concrete mandate regarding the rights of women (Guatemala);**
- 100.32. **Create by law a national institution to ensure the fulfilment and application of human rights for the entire population without distinction of any kind and provide increased financial and human resources to the Office of Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson (Costa Rica);**

² The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: Expedite the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women, and Domestic Violence, and harmonize its legislation in accordance with the Convention without delay.

³ The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: Expedite the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women, and Domestic Violence, and harmonize its legislation in accordance with the Convention without delay.

⁴ The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: Adopt a coherent legal framework for the protection of persons belonging to national minorities as well as to ratify the European Charter on Regional and Minority Languages and work towards socio-economic betterment of people from ethnic minority backgrounds.

- 100.33. Proceed with the establishment of a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles and provide it with adequate resources for its efficient functioning (Serbia) ;
- 100.34. Continue its support to the Office of the Children's Rights Ombudsman (Georgia);
- 100.35. Strengthen its support to the Office of the Children's Rights Ombudsman (Timor-Leste);
- 100.36. Take measures to ensure that the Office of the Ombudsman on Equal Opportunities is strengthened sufficiently to carry out its functions (Namibia);
- 100.37. Develop a comprehensive National Action Plan on Human Rights (Indonesia);
- 100.38. Elaborate an operational framework of systematic and comprehensive assessment of progress achieved in human rights (Ukraine);
- 100.39. Set out specific plans with measurable targets in the area of human rights and social policies (Spain);
- 100.40. Further pursue its commitment to guaranteeing full respect for the rights of the child, in particular, children with disabilities, and guarantee that all violations of these rights, in particular allegations of abuse and ill treatment are brought to justice (Portugal);
- 100.41. Make every effort to increase the effectiveness of the protection of the rights of the child (Tajikistan);
- 100.42. Reinforce the measures to protect the rights of child, inter alia by expediting the adoption of the revised draft Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child (Georgia) ;
- 100.43. Continue to pay particular attention to the issue of youth participation in the public decision-making process (Romania);
- 100.44. Continue to seek an even better coordination among all the stakeholders with the view to overcoming possible problems in adopting human rights legislation (Romania);
- 100.45. That the Ministry of Justice, jointly with civil society organizations, consider to conduct awareness-raising campaigns among the Parliament representatives and the society as a whole (Spain);
- 100.46. Take the additional effective legislative and administrative measures to promote gender equality (China);
- 100.47. Strengthen on-going anti-discrimination efforts, including by amending relevant legislation in order to effectively protect women and girls from multiple or intersecting forms of discrimination (Turkey);
- 100.48. Continue to ensure women's equal participation in the economic sector, equal opportunities for career development, equal pay as men and by providing sufficient opportunities to reconcile work and family obligations; (Pakistan);
- 100.49. Take active measures, including legislative measures, to ensure equal wages for women and men (Namibia);
- 100.50. Ensure effective implementation of its laws on anti-discrimination against women and minorities and take effective measures to ensure protection

of migrants, refugees and minorities, against racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and hate crimes (Pakistan);

100.51. **Establish a holistic strategy to strengthen social cohesion and to respect religious diversity (Saudi Arabia);**

100.52. **Legally define the limit between freedom of expression and hate speech, and take measures to ensure that minorities are represented in the social and political spheres (Saudi Arabia);**

100.53. **Take measures to criminalize incitement to hatred based on religion and faith (Saudi Arabia);**

100.54. **Propose specific initiatives and policies to combat all forms of extremism, racism and xenophobia, in particular towards Muslims (Saudi Arabia);**

100.55. **Monitor the effective application of the anti-discrimination legislation and consider taking special measures to foster the integration process of national and ethnic minorities in the society (Afghanistan);**

100.56. **Fight all forms of racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism and ensure that tolerance and intercultural understanding are promoted and conveyed to the public, including by political figures and develop, in close consultation with national minority representatives, a comprehensive strategy for the promotion of social cohesion with respect for diversity (Albania);**

100.57. **Enforce anti-discrimination legislation, taking special measures to foster the integration of national and ethnic minorities into society (Brazil);**

100.58. **Eliminate discrimination on the basis of language in the area of education and employment (Russian Federation);**

100.59. **Continue its efforts to eliminate discrimination against ethnic minorities, refugees and immigrants (China);**

100.60. **Ensure effective implementation of anti-discrimination legislation and consider the possibility to adopt special measures to promote the integration of national and ethnic minorities into society (Guatemala);**

100.61. **Redouble its efforts to combat stereotypes and intolerance, prevent crimes with racial, discriminatory or xenophobic motivation, and provide effective responses to hate speech (Panama);**

100.62. **Continue the efforts to combat all forms of hatred and discrimination, and strengthen mechanisms of accountability in this regard (Libya);**

100.63. **Deepen the measures to guarantee the fight against discrimination, xenophobia and racism, particularly through the investigation and effective punishment of the perpetrators of such acts (Argentina);**

100.64. **Strengthen the efforts to prevent crimes committed with discriminatory or xenophobic motives and to bring perpetrators of such crimes to justice (Afghanistan);**

100.65. **Prevent racial, discriminatory and xenophobic crimes and provide effective remedies to the victims (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

100.66. **Strengthen the fight against racism and racial discrimination (Algeria);**

- 100.67. Continue to strengthen its efforts to prevent crimes committed with racial, discriminatory and xenophobic motives (Portugal);
- 100.68. Investigate all cases of racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia, and ensure that tolerance and intercultural understanding are promoted and conveyed to the public (Egypt);
- 100.69. Continue to take measures to combat hate crimes (Tajikistan);
- 100.70. Consider a possibility of developing a complex of measures aimed at combating hate speech (Belarus);
- 100.71. Reinforce existing educational programs about the Holocaust, and introduce additional ones, as a key lesson in the fight against racial discrimination (Israel);
- 100.72. Conduct effective investigation and where appropriate, bring to justice persons or groups of individuals who incite intolerance and spread racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic speech (Belarus);
- 100.73. Take all necessary measures to prevent and prosecute hate crimes, especially all forms of violence and harassment related to sexual orientation and gender identity (Slovenia) ;
- 100.74. Step up efforts to investigate and act upon instances of hate speech and hate crime and to ensure effective access to justice and remedies for victims, including LGBTI persons and members of religious or ethnic minority communities (The Netherlands);
- 100.75. Adopt measures that guarantee the respect for the rights of LGBTI persons, by investigating and punishing acts of violence and discrimination as well as reviewing all legislation that may affect their rights (Argentina);
- 100.76. Continue to address homophobia and discrimination through better education programs and ensure that LGBTI people are able to exercise their rights to freedom of expression and assembly (Australia);
- 100.77. Reject the adoption of legislative proposals that would restrict the enjoyment of fundamental rights by LGBTI persons (Belgium);
- 100.78. Strengthen its efforts to address discrimination relating to sexual orientation and gender identity, ensure that all allegations of human rights violations against LGBTI persons are investigated and that effective remedies are made available to victims (Ireland);
- 100.79. Consider ways of improving the authorities' response to hate crimes based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Israel);
- 100.80. Fight against discrimination based on origin, gender and sexual orientation, and strengthen its legislative framework to provide recognition and protection for trans-gender persons (France);
- 100.81. Strengthen actions and policies in order to combat effectively discrimination and violence suffered by persons on account of their sexual orientation or gender identity (Chile);
- 100.82. Raise public awareness of hate speech and hate crimes on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religious affiliation, disability or ethnic identity; encourage reporting to authorities; and develop procedures to ensure such crimes are effectively investigated (Canada);

- 100.83. Ensure that effective investigations of incitement and agitation to hatred and violence, and hate crimes on grounds of sexual orientation and/or gender identity are carried out (Sweden);
- 100.84. Ensure effective legal frameworks are in place that enable the reporting, investigation and prosecution of cases of discrimination or hate crimes on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 100.85. Conduct thorough investigations of alleged hate crimes against LGBTI persons, Roma and refugees (United States of America);
- 100.86. Refrain from adopting legislation which may limit the rights and freedoms of LGBTI persons (Slovenia);
- 100.87. Amend the Law on the Protection of Minors against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information so that it cannot be abused for discriminating and punishing persons for their sexual orientation and gender identity (Czech Republic);
- 100.88. Ensure that the Law on the Protection of Minors against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information is not applied with a discriminatory effect against LGBTI persons (Germany);
- 100.89. Review the Law on the Protection of Minors against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information so that it could not be interpreted to prevent carrying out awareness-raising activities on issues of sexual orientation and gender identity (Switzerland);
- 100.90. That the Law on the Protection of Minors is not applied with a view to censoring LGBTI persons related information (Norway);
- 100.91. Not to apply the Law on the protection of minors to restrict freedom of expression, and facilitate access to legal remedies of persons who consider that the enjoyment of their right has been affected (Mexico);
- 100.92. Discard efforts to narrow down and legally entrench a restrictive definition of family based exclusively on heterosexual marriage that could be considered discriminatory; An inclusive concept of partnership, also for same-sex couples, would be a positive step (Norway);
- 100.93. Address the gap that prevents trans-gender persons from legal recognition (Spain);
- 100.94. Recognize in law the gender identity of transgender people and do not restrict the rights of LGBTI people (Uruguay);
- 100.95. Introduce a definition of torture to a Criminal Code making torture a distinct offence with corresponding punishments (The Maldives);
- 100.96. Incorporate in the domestic legislation the definition of torture, in conformity with article 1 of the CAT, including all of its elements, in particular imprescriptibility of torture (Mexico);
- 100.97. Protect persons, particularly women and children, against violence, exploitation and abuse (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 100.98. Further address all forms of gender-based violence, including the issue of incorporating the definition of gender-based violence in the national programme for the prevention of domestic violence and the provision of assistance to the victims for 2014-2020 (Kyrgyzstan);

- 100.99. Continue its good efforts to address violence against women and domestic violence (Latvia);
- 100.100. Sustain efforts to eradicate domestic violence and gender-based violence (Philippines);
- 100.101. Take all necessary measures in order to promote the rights of women and effectively combat domestic violence, and ensure effective implementation of existing instruments (France) ;
- 100.102. Continue with efforts to ensure broader access of victims of gender-based and domestic violence to justice and regulate clearly their protection as well as with improvements regarding laws on anti-discrimination and equal opportunities toward explicit protection of women from multiple forms of discrimination (Croatia);
- 100.103. Strengthen its legislation and assistance to victims of gender-based violence to ensure that the rights of all victims, including former spouses or long-term partners who did not live in a common household, are recognised and that they receive equal treatment (Ireland);
- 100.104. Continue measures to promote the equality between women and men and to combat domestic violence (Armenia);
- 100.105. Establish and implement comprehensive measures to prevent violence against women and implement effective measures of support for victims of domestic violence (Costa Rica);
- 100.106. Give the national programme for the prevention of domestic violence and assistance to victims all necessary resources, in particular regarding full access to the competent judiciary institutions (Portugal);
- 100.107. Prevent and punish all forms of violence against women, including spousal rape (Panama);
- 100.108. Include into the Penal Code violence, sexual attacks and abuses perpetrated by spouses (Mexico);
- 100.109. Criminalize domestic violence and marital rape⁵ (Belgium 1);
- 100.110. Redouble efforts to combat gender-based violence by criminalizing marital rape, thoroughly investigating and prosecuting acts of violence against women, and issuing guidelines for and providing training to law enforcement and judicial officials on handling domestic violence cases in all regions (Canada);
- 100.111. Criminalize marital rape (Brazil);
- 100.112. Continue stepping up efforts to combat trafficking in human beings and adopt a separate plan of action on combating trafficking in human beings to improve the coordination at the national level (Belarus);
- 100.113. Ensure that all allegations of abuse and violence against children are investigated, and that alleged perpetrators are effectively prosecuted (Turkey);

⁵ The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: Criminalize domestic violence and marital rape and ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

- 100.114. **Adopt legislation explicitly prohibiting corporal punishment of children, including in the home, and consider awareness-raising activities to increase public knowledge about the issue (Estonia);**
- 100.115. **Take additional measures to protect children from corporal punishment and sexual crimes (Kyrgyzstan);**
- 100.116. **Develop measures to prevent child abuse and corporal punishment, to include passing the draft legislation on children's rights (United States of America);**
- 100.117. **Prohibit all forms of violence against children in all settings, including corporal punishment, and provide for measures to enforce its prohibition (Sweden);**
- 100.118. **Strengthen the legislation in order to criminalize all forms of corporal punishment of children in all circumstances (Chile);**
- 100.119. **Establish and implement integrated strategies for the prevention of the child abuse, suicide among young people and unwanted pregnancies among girls and young people (Costa Rica);**
- 100.120. **Intensify efforts to implement all measures for preventing and addressing all forms of violence against children, particularly in institutions (Montenegro);**
- 100.121. **Continue its work in preventing all cases of human trafficking (The Maldives);**
- 100.122. **Continue to improve the training and specialization of investigators, prosecutors and judges to tackle the crimes of trafficking in persons, including with a focus on women and children (Estonia);**
- 100.123. **Increase funding for NGOs to provide sustainable care to trafficking victims (United States of America);**
- 100.124. **Consider the adoption of a separate action plan on combating human trafficking as well as to improve coordination of anti-trafficking actions at national and municipal levels (Serbia) ;**
- 100.125. **Investigate effectively all cases of human trafficking and prosecute those responsible (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 100.126. **Provide redress to victims of human trafficking (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 100.127. **Provide more direct social assistance and relocation support to victims of trafficking; enhance efforts to prevent the factors behind continued trafficking and ensure effective prosecutions of the perpetrators (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 100.128. **Strengthen the right to fair trial, inter alia through the consequent implementation of relevant EU standards (Germany);**
- 100.129. **End the overcrowding of prisons, inter alia by developing alternative forms of punishment. Pursue the implementation of the Prison Modernization Programme in order to improve prison conditions in a manner compliant to international human rights standards (Germany);**

- 100.130. **Eliminate overcrowding in prisons and improve conditions in its penitentiary system in line with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Czech Republic);**
- 100.131. **Continue work to ensure prison and detention centre conditions comply with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Australia);**
- 100.132. **Strengthen the resources and staffing of the national preventive mechanism according to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and ensure its independent and effective functioning (Czech Republic);**
- 100.133. **Ensure the freedom of opinion and expression in line with the international obligations of Lithuania (Russian Federation);**
- 100.134. **Take additional measures to ensure a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders without fear of reprisals, intimidation, violence or discrimination (The Netherlands);**
- 100.135. **Assess legislative initiatives pertaining to civil society in order to make sure that they do not unjustly restrict the scope of action of non-governmental organizations (Norway);**
- 100.136. **Recognize explicitly the legitimacy of the work of human rights defenders and ensure for them a safe environment without fear of intimidation or reprisals; investigate threats or attacks against them and bring those responsible to justice (Uruguay);**
- 100.137. **Establish an inclusive dialogue on the universal basic income as a tool to improve the current social security system, in consultation with all stakeholders (Haiti);**
- 100.138. **Review the laws and policies with a view to raise standard of living of marginalized and vulnerable groups, preventing them from languishing in poverty (Haiti);**
- 100.139. **Continue its endeavours to combat poverty and achieve prosperity (Iraq);**
- 100.140. **Ensure that young people with mental health problems have access to the highest professional consultancies and treatment methods, and promote an enabling environment for non-profit organizations working with mental health issues in relation to young people and children (Portugal);**
- 100.141. **Take actions to improve sexual and reproductive health and rights according to previous recommendations and formulate a national strategy on sexual and reproductive health and rights, and integrate sexual and reproductive health into the next National Health Programme for 2026-2036 (Finland);**
- 100.142. **Continue expanding its human rights education programmes, in an inclusive and permanent manner and at all levels (Chile);**
- 100.143. **Provide proper conditions and financial means for minority language schools within the framework of the education reform without compromising the general quality of education; also in this context, adopt additional measures to ensure a sufficient transitional period for the educational reform in minority schools (Poland);**

- 100.144. **Provide financial resources for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Costa Rica);**
- 100.145. **Devise a comprehensive national strategy for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Turkey);**
- 100.146. **Improve implementation of relevant national standards and legislation pertaining to accessibility of people with disabilities, also on the municipal level (Israel);**
- 100.147. **Ensure the accessibility of school environments, the provision of reasonable accommodation, accessible and adapted materials and curricula, and the compulsory pre-service and in-service training of all teachers on inclusive education and take measures to implement the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in this regard (Finland);**
- 100.148. **Take, without delay, concrete measures for the full integration of persons with disabilities, in particular regarding access to employment, medical care reimbursement, and specific accommodation in public schools, public places and transportation (France) ;**
- 100.149. **Abolish all practices of forced treatment, including non-consensual castrations, sterilizations and abortions, and eliminate the possibility for third parties such as guardians, doctors and courts as recommended by CRPD (Spain);**
- 100.150. **Continue its efforts in protecting persons with disabilities against violence, exploitation and abuse (Timor-Leste);**
- 100.151. **Adopt a coherent legal framework for the protection of persons belonging to national minorities⁶ (Croatia 2);**
- 100.152. **Work towards socio-economic betterment of people from ethnic minority backgrounds⁷ (Croatia 2);**
- 100.153. **Finalize the enactment process of the Law on National Minorities (Turkey);**
- 100.154. **Adopt a Law on National Minorities that would safeguard the respect of language rights of minorities in accordance with Lithuania's international obligations (Poland);**
- 100.155. **Adopt an appropriate law on national minorities (Russian Federation);**
- 100.156. **Continue to promote the rights of national minorities through a legal framework (The Maldives);**
- 100.157. **Finalize the adoption of the law on national minorities (Armenia);**

⁶ The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: Adopt a coherent legal framework for the protection of persons belonging to national minorities as well as to ratify the European Charter on Regional and Minority Languages and work towards socio-economic betterment of people from ethnic minority backgrounds.

⁷ The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: Adopt a coherent legal framework for the protection of persons belonging to national minorities as well as to ratify the European Charter on Regional and Minority Languages and work towards socio-economic betterment of people from ethnic minority backgrounds.

100.158. Approve the draft Law on National Minorities and protect effectively differences in languages, religions, culture and identity (Costa Rica);

100.159. Continue strengthening the comprehensive initiatives on education in favor of migrants, ethnic minorities, women, and children, in particular from Roma communities (Venezuela);

100.160. Ensure that the voice and challenges faced by minorities are acknowledged by the authorities and included in the decision-making processes that affect them (Poland);

100.161. Address all outstanding issues in the field of minorities' rights, including on the official use of minority languages and ensuring the quality education in minority languages (Serbia);

100.162. Continue implementing the Plan for the Integration of the Roma, through which the Ministry of Social Security provides labour market insertion services for persons belonging to this vulnerable group (Venezuela);

100.163. Continue to implement the National Roma Integration Strategy, while addressing areas for improvement noted in the European Commission's 2014 assessment of progress (Australia);

100.164. Accelerate and strengthen migrant integration into Lithuanian society, including by developing awareness campaigns and educational programs as well as preventing and investigating manifestations of hatred (Canada);

100.165. Continue efforts to create the appropriate conditions for the integration of migrants and for improving their living and working conditions (Germany);

100.166. Adopt a comprehensive integration strategy for refugees, ensuring the effective integration measures and increasing the social support for refugees during the integration process (Egypt);

100.167. Improve reception services at foreigners' registration centres and implement alternative registration services, particularly for asylum seekers with special needs (Iraq);

100.168. Develop actions to improve the living conditions of asylum seekers and avoid discrimination on grounds of nationality or country of origin (Chile);

100.169. Take measures to provide those at stake of statelessness with identity documents with particular regard to the Roma (Hungary);

100.170. Adopt necessary measures to reduce statelessness (Panama);

100.171. Complete the investigation on its involvement in CIA rendition and secret detention programmes, within a reasonable time (Islamic Republic of Iran);

101. The recommendation below did not enjoy the support of Lithuania and would thus be noted:

101.1 Put an end to the practice of rewriting the history and interpreting it at will, including in the textbooks of secondary and high schools (Russian Federation);

102. Lithuania could not support the recommendation in paragraph 101.1 as it considers it to be unrelated to human rights and not complying with the basis of the review stipulated in the HRC Resolutions No. 5/1 and 16/21.

103. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Lithuania was headed by Vice-Minister of Justice, Mr. Paulius Gričiūnas, and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Mr. Andrius Krivas, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Lithuania in Geneva;
 - Ms. Lina Saulėnaitė-Višinskienė, Counsellor of International and EU Affairs Unit, Office of the Government;
 - Ms. Irina Urbonė, Director of Law Department, Ministry of the Interior;
 - Mr. Rimvydas Valentukevičius, Deputy Chief-Prosecutor of Criminal Prosecution Department of the Prosecutor General's Office;
 - Ms. Vygantė Milašiūtė, Head of International Agreements Law Division, International Law Department, Ministry of Justice;
 - Mr. Donatas Butkus, Head of Human Rights Division, United Nations, International Organizations and Human Rights Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Ms. Aušrutė Armonavičienė, Head of Healthcare of Mother and Child Division, Ministry of Health;
 - Ms. Neringa Dulkinaitytė, Chief Specialist of International Law Division, Ministry of Social Security and Labour;
 - Ms. Ona Čepulėnienė, Chief Specialist of Lower and Upper Secondary Education Division, General Education Department, Ministry of Education and Science;
 - Ms. Gražina Sluško, Chief Specialist of Communication with National Communities Division, Department of National Minorities;
 - Ms. Inga Miltenytė, First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Lithuania to the United Nations Office in Geneva;
 - Mr. Augustinas Normantas, Head of the Seimas Ombudsperson's office;
 - Mr. Vytautas Valentinavičius, Communication Officer of the Seimas Ombudsperson's Office.
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