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**Statement by H. E. Mr. Rytis Paulauskas, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Lithuania at the review of Republic of Poland**

Madame President,

Lithuania welcomes His Excellency ... and the delegation of Poland and congratulates for completion of the national report for the second UPR cycle and for its presentation today. We appreciate the inclusive report preparation process which involved different State and non-governmental actors.

Poland is situated at the crossroads and in the centre of Europe. It has always been home to a number of national minorities. We acknowledge Poland's efforts to maintain an integrated but at the same time multiethnic and multicultural society.

At the same time I want to point out that the rights of persons belonging to Lithuanian national minority to education in the Lithuanian language are undermined. The substantial underinvestment in and under-financing of small ethnic schools, which brings to their progressive closure, the lack of textbooks in the Lithuanian language and the unacceptably poor translation quality of school examination questions are the main obstacle in ensuring full respect of the right to education.

Moreover, Lithuania is highly concerned about the rising inter-ethnic tension in Poland. A number of vandalism acts directed against persons of Lithuanian national minority contributed to escalation of the inter-ethnic hostility.

Having profound faith in Poland's political will to comply with its international obligations Lithuania recommends:

1. The Government of Poland must ensure full implementation of the right to education of persons belonging to national minorities in particular to refrain from closing schools with minority language of instruction, to provide necessary funding for these schools, also to fully finance publication of textbooks in national minorities languages.

2. Polish authorities should take immediate steps in order to assure that acts of inter-ethnic violence will not be repeated and promote understanding between different national groups.

I thank you, Madame President.