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**14th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group (22 October-5 November 2012)**

**Statement by H. E. Mr. Rytis Paulauskas,  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Lithuania  
at the review of Ukraine  
24 October 2012**

Madam President,

Lithuania welcomes the esteemed delegation of Ukraine and thanks for active involvement in the UPR process and for the informative National Report that indicates country's openness to this procedure. We welcome the inclusive process of preparation of the report that involved broad public discussion and active participation of different state and non-state actors.

We note with satisfaction the priority of the Ukrainian government to eradicate trafficking in human beings and a wide range of measures and activities to tackle this phenomenon. We welcome the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The effective implementation of these international instruments and subsequently adopted national legislation are critical in preventing and combating this crime. To this end, we recommend Ukraine continuing efforts in combating human trafficking and providing the necessary assistance to the victims of trafficking.

We would like to commend Ukraine for continuous efforts to reform the national institutional and legal system with a view to achieving compliance with international standards. We acknowledge positive developments in reforming judicial system such as the adoption of the new Code of Criminal Procedure. We note that further efforts are needed in bringing the judicial system in line with international standards particularly addressing lack of independence of judiciary and insufficient transparency of the judicial system. We are also concerned that the newly adopted amendments to the law on the functioning of the Prosecutor's Office are not in line with European standards. We remain confident that Ukraine will concentrate all necessary efforts in order to achieve this goal.

As for the rights of convicted persons and persons deprived of their liberty, we commend Ukraine's efforts to reduce the number of individuals placed in cells and conducted inspections by monitoring groups covering the legality of the detention and the detention conditions. Remaining issues such as poor detention conditions, overcrowding, high mortality, cases of torture and ill-treatment should be further addressed by the authorities.

I thank you.