

Check against delivery

17th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group (21 October-1 November 2013)

**Statement by H. E. Mr. Rytis Paulauskas,  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Lithuania  
at the review of Mexico  
23 October 2013**

Mr. President,

Lithuania warmly welcomes the esteemed delegation of Mexico and thanks for active involvement in the UPR process and for the informative National Report that indicates country's openness to this procedure.

We would like to commend Mexico for the continuous efforts in promotion and protection of freedom of expression. We note with satisfaction the establishment of the Special Prosecutor's Office for Crimes against Freedom of Expression as well as the adoption of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists Protection Act, providing for preventive and protective mechanisms designed to safeguard the lives, liberty and security of human rights defenders and journalists. At the same time, we remain concerned about worrying reports on threats and violence against human rights defenders and journalists in the country. We further recommend that Mexico fully and effectively implement the recently adopted laws in order to end threats, attacks and killings of human rights defenders and journalists and ensure prompt and effective investigation to bring those responsible to justice.

We note with appreciation the endeavours to improve legislative and institutional framework both at national and local level to further promote and protect women's rights and to ensure gender equality. While welcoming the steps to prevent and combat violence against women, such as the inclusion of the crime of femicide in the Federal Criminal Code, we note that the implementation in practice of the existing legal framework still remains a challenge. In this regard, we recommend that Mexico ensure full and effective implementation of the existing legislation and policies combating violence against women and adopt effective measures to reduce violence and impunity.

I thank you.