

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 Saudi Arabia
21 October 2013**

Mr. President,

Lithuania welcomes the esteemed delegation of Saudi Arabia and thanks for the informative National Report.

We welcome the accession to the Optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child [on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography]. We further recommend to Saudi Arabia to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Lithuania notes with concern that most executions carried out in the country do not meet international minimum standards. Lithuania recommends to Saudi Arabia to establish a moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to abolition, and in the meantime, to immediately stop imposing the death penalty on anyone under the age of 18, to bring the law and judicial practices in line with international fair trial guarantees and to reduce the number of crimes which carry death penalty as sanction.

We note that the recommendation accepted during the previous UPR to “enact and implement a Law of association” has not yet been implemented. In this regard, we recommend Saudi Arabia to intensify its efforts to pass a Law on Associations.

We note with satisfaction the recently adopted law on domestic violence. In this regard, we recommend Saudi Arabia to take further measures to fully and effectively implement the law that detail specific and efficient enforcement and redress mechanisms for women and children facing domestic violence.

I thank you.