

Check against delivery

21st session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group, 19 – 30 January 2015

Statement by Ms. Audra Čiapienė,

Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Representation of Lithuania  
at the review of the Republic of Kenya, 22 January 2015

Mr. President,

Lithuania welcomes the esteemed delegation of Kenya and wishes success in this UPR session.

While commending introduction of the moratorium on death penalty in Kenya, Lithuania recommends accelerating progress towards abolishing it. We also recommend to properly investigate extrajudicial killings and bring to justice alleged perpetrators, to ensure that all police and counter-terrorism activities are carried out in compliance with the country's international obligations.

We welcome enactment of the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act of 2011 and in this respect we recommend to introduce an efficient mechanism of monitoring of its implementation. Additionally, we recommend to combat trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and girls by means of adoption of a comprehensive national action plan in this domain, to protect the victims and hold perpetrators to account, to eliminate all obstacles to women's access to justice.

Despite the progress achieved in addressing the needs and challenges of juveniles in custody, we recommend to raise the age of criminal responsibility in line with international standards. We also recommend to pursue eradicating child labour in Kenya by enforcing compulsory education.

Lithuania recommends to decriminalize defamation by amending respective laws in line with international standards, to ensure that journalists were able to practice in a free and safe environment, to investigate all attacks on journalists. We also recommend to effectively cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

Finally, we recommend repealing of restrictions on NGO access to foreign funding in conformity with the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Thank you.