

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

**Statement by H. E. Mr. Rytis Paulauskas, Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of Lithuania
at the review of the Kyrgyz Republic, 19 January 2015**

Mr. President,

Lithuania welcomes the esteemed delegation of Kyrgyzstan and commends its cooperation in the human rights area and its efforts to harmonize the national laws with the Constitution of 2010 and international human rights norms. We appreciate that Kyrgyzstan accepted the Lithuanian recommendations during the first UPR cycle. As a follow up we recommend:

- to further strengthen the implementation of the Kyrgyzstan's international commitments with regard to the Convention against Torture, and to investigate all allegations of torture and ill-treatment in custody;
- being concerned that the violence against women remains widespread, including bride-kidnapping, we recommend to establish an inter-state reporting mechanism and to provide the victims of violence with appropriate services;
- while commending the decriminalization of defamation in 2011, we recommend that the recently adopted amendments to the criminal code conforms to international human rights standards and that attacks on journalists and human rights defenders are promptly investigated and perpetrators are held accountable. In addition, we recommend to effectively cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on HR Defenders.
- we recommend to refrain from imposing disproportionate or discriminatory restriction on freedom of associations and to reject draft laws on money laundering, treason and foreign agents. We recommend to effectively co-operate with the SR on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Associations.

Thank you