

Check against delivery

21th 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 Sweden

Mr. President,

Lithuania welcomes the esteemed delegation of Sweden and thanks for the comprehensive national report.

Lithuania would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Sweden for its important achievements and for its consistent development, aimed at realizing a maximum of Human Rights. Lithuania encourages Sweden to continue expanding its dialogue with civil society organizations and to exchange its valuable experience with other countries - Lithuania is one of them directly benefiting from the engagement with Swedish institutions and civil society - that are seeking for progress in the area of human rights protection.

Lithuania recognizes the positive steps taken by Sweden in ensuring the protection of children by introducing a new crime into the Penal Code on 2009. Lithuania would like to make the following recommendations:

- 1) to withdraw its declaration on Article 2 (c) in order to give full effect to OP-CRC-SC (Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography) in addressing all forms of child pornography;
- 2) to raise the level of public awareness in relation to child sex tourism which is still low in Sweden, as recommended by CRC (Committee on the rights of the child).

Thank you.