

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 Turkey**

Mr. President,

Lithuania welcomes the esteemed delegation of Turkey.

Lithuania welcomes the positive steps toward the prevention of inequalities, such as the draft laws on Equality and Anti-Discrimination and the Enforcement Monitoring Bodies and encourages Turkey to accelerate their adoption. Lithuania notes with satisfaction the fact that the number of the extrajudicial executions dramatically decreased due to the reforms in Turkish legislation. Nevertheless, Lithuania is concerned about the reported cases of attacks on journalists and human rights defenders and about placing many of them in pre-trial detention for extended periods.

With respect to these developments Lithuania recommends Turkey:

- to consistently implement legislative frameworks concerning gender equality and non-discrimination; undertake temporary special measures to accelerate the advancement of women; to design long-term strategy and awareness-raising programmes to eliminate harmful practices, such as domestic violence and early marriages in particular.
- to bring the laws regulating the use of force by law enforcement officers in line with international standards, particularly taking into account components of proportionality and necessity; to create an independent oversight mechanism with respect to complaints against criminal conduct by the police;
- to bring relevant provisions of the Criminal Code in line with the article 19 of the Covenant (ICCPR) repealing the restrictions of freedom of expression;

Thank you.