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22nd session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group, 4 – 15 May 2015

Statement by Mrs. Audra Čiapienė,  
Minister Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Lithuania  
at the review of Belarus

Mr. President,

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

Lithuania has been following the implementation of its recommendations to Belarus during the first cycle and notes the progress in certain areas.

Appreciating the 4th National Plan of Action on Gender Equality, Lithuania recommends adequate resourcing of its implementation, prompt adoption of the draft law on prevention of domestic violence;

Having noticed the interest of the Byelorussian authorities to learn from international experience of non-application of death penalty, we recommend to advance the work of the parliamentary working group on death penalty and to introduce immediate moratorium;

Lithuania also recommends to Belarus:

- to abandon practice of arbitrary detention of journalists and decriminalize defamation;
- to initiate legislation to repeal article 193.1 of the Criminal Code, which imposes criminal penalties for participation in unregistered organizations;
- to release immediately all political prisoners and ensure their full rehabilitation;
- to increase cooperation with the UN treaty bodies, including issuing standing invitation and permitting the SR on Belarus to visit the country.

Thank you.