

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

**Statement by Mrs. Audra Čiapienė, Minister Counsellor
of the Permanent Representation of Lithuania
at the review of the United States of America**

Lithuania thanks the high-ranking delegation of the United States of America for the informative national report. We celebrate the US deep-rooted commitment to human dignity and human right record, which for many countries, in particular new democracies, should be as example to follow. We also celebrate its contribution to protection and promotion of human rights standards around the world.

Lithuania appreciates the wide consultations process of the US Government with the civil society on implementation of the first cycle recommendations and would be interested in learning more about the mechanisms of consultations with civil society on preparation for the UPR and for treaty reports.

We note positive steps of the US Administration towards the ratification of the CRPD and CEDAW conventions and look forward to a successful completion of these processes.

While welcoming the increasing number of states that had abolished the death penalty, Lithuania however supports the Human Rights Committee's opinion and adhering to the EU position regarding death penalty **recommends** introducing a moratorium at the federal level with a view to achieving nationwide moratorium of capital punishment as a first step to abolishing such penalty.

I would like to conclude by once again thanking for the US leading role in protecting human rights.