

23rd session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group, 2 - 13 November 2015
Statement by H. E. Mr. Rytis Paulauskas, Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of Lithuania
at the review of Myanmar

Mr. President,

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

Lithuania notes the adoption of the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women for 2013-2022. Lithuania recommends Myanmar to review and abolish those laws, which are discriminatory against women and religious minorities according to international standards.

While commending the commitment of the Government of Myanmar to open a country office of the UNHCR and the ongoing negotiations, Lithuania remains concerned at further delays and encourages Myanmar to promptly establish the office with a full mandate.

Despite the improved conditions of prisoners, Lithuania expresses its concern about the continuing practice of torture in places of detention and recommends Myanmar to ratify CAT and OP-CAT. Lithuania also recommends to ensure that police and military officers alleged to have committed acts of torture and ill-treatment are held accountable through the criminal justice system. We also recommend Myanmar to raise the age of criminal responsibility to international standards.

Lithuania recommends Myanmar to change a *de facto* moratorium, which is in place in Myanmar since 1988, to a *de jure* moratorium on the use of the death penalty as a first step to its abolishing.

Lithuania recommends to ratify ICCPR and to raise public awareness about international human rights law and the legal avenues available for defending those rights.

Thank you.