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24th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group, 18 – 29 January 2016

Statement of Ms. Audra Čiapienė, Minister Counsellor

of the Permanent Mission of Lithuania

at the review of Belgium

Mr. President,

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

Lithuania welcomes the Belgium's coherent cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and appreciates its regular financial support of the Office.

Lithuania commends Belgium for its consequent ratification of the international treaties.

Lithuania welcomes the Government agreement of October 2014, which foresees the creation, during the current legislative period, of a national human rights mechanism that complies with the Paris Principles, and recommends to implement the agreement accordingly.

Lithuania commends Belgium for its progress to improve overall conditions in prisons and recommends to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OP-CAT).

Lithuania highly values efforts of Belgium to finalise and fulfil its fifth national action plan against domestic violence (2015-2019), including the fight against sexual violence and with due regard for the Istanbul Convention, whose ratification is pending.

Thank you.