

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

Statement by H. E. Mr. Rytis Paulauskas, Ambassador,

Permanent Representative of Lithuania

at the review of Estonia

Mr. President,

Lithuania warmly welcomes the esteemed delegation of Estonia and commends Estonia on the implementation of Lithuania's recommendations submitted in the 1st cycle of the UPR, Session 23.

Lithuania highly values Estonia's advances in children and women rights and gender equality. Establishment of the position of Ombudsman for Children (2011) and adoption of a new Child Protection Act (2014) are especially commended.

Lithuania recommends Estonia to further raise public awareness about the content of the new legislation and profile of the Ombudsman, in cooperation with NGOs, and in education system raise awareness of children's rights, especially in cases of abuse and children's participation in civil and criminal proceedings.

Lithuania commends Estonia's progress in widening women rights and promoting gender equality legislatively and institutionally: especially notable is a new Military Service Act (2013), ensuring equal and continuous participation of women in conscript military service, Estonia's signing of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (2014) (The Istanbul Convention), and Establishment of Gender Equality Council, an advisory body to the government (2013).

Lithuania recommends adequate financing of the new gender equality institution, promotion of its role through public awareness campaigns, and improvement in data collection on gender equality, domestic violence, and violence against women and children.

Thank you