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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 Latvia

Mr. President,

Lithuania warmly welcomes the esteemed delegation of Latvia and commends Latvia on the implementation of Lithuania's recommendations submitted in the 1st cycle of the UPR, particularly noting the ratification of ICCPR-OP2 (2013).

Lithuania commends Latvia's progress in simplifying the process of citizenship acquisition and naturalisation by adopting amendments to the Citizenship Law (2013), which as a result significantly reduced the number of non-citizens in Latvia.

Lithuania also congratulates Latvia on improving conditions for linguistic minorities to learn the Latvian language, which facilitates their integration into society.

Lithuania commends Latvia's progress on women's involvement in decision-making and implementation of measures to reduce gender pay gap. Improvements in combating human trafficking should also be praised.

Lithuania recommends that Latvia adopt comprehensive legislation on violence against women and domestic violence as criminal offences, investigate reports of domestic violence, and prosecute perpetrators.

Lithuania commends Latvia on the reduction of prisoners and detainees since the adoption of criminal policy document (2013).

Lithuania recommends incorporation of CAT into the national legislation, and ratification of OP-CAT.

Thank you