***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 Somalia***

Mr. President,

Lithuania warmly welcomes the esteemed delegation of Somalia, thanks for its informative National Report and expresses support to Somalia’s efforts in implementing its national plan on protection and promotion of human rights.

Acknowledging the security challenges in Somalia, Lithuania nevertheless recommends Somalia to finalize and adopt the federal Constitution, without delay, in coordination with the Federal Government, regional administrations, civil society and the Somali public. We also recommend including of women, minorities and persons with disabilities in participation in the constitutional referendum and elections.

Lithuania strongly encourages Somalia to cooperate with the United Nations human rights mechanisms and recommends issuing of a standing invitation to the special procedures mandate holders.

Lithuania also recommends Somalia:

* to make the education of children a State priority and to provide all children with the educational opportunities, to rebuild schools and protect them;
* to establish a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its abolition in the shortest delay;
* to adopt measures, including appropriate legislation, to prevent, penalize and eliminate all forms of violence against women, end impunity for sexual violence and ensure access to justice;
* to sign and ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Thank you.