

25th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group, 2 – 13 May 2016

Statement of Ms. Audra Čiapienė, Minister Counsellor

of the Permanent Mission of Lithuania

at the review of Ireland

Mr. President,

Lithuania warmly welcomes the esteemed delegation of Ireland and thanks for its informative National Report. Lithuanian congratulates Ireland on the significant progress in implementing the UPR 1st cycle recommendations, in particular in the areas of equality and gender, disability and rights of child.

Lithuania highly commends Ireland's newly adopted National Strategy to reduce Suicide (2015 – 2020), as a tool to save lives and empower communities and individuals to improve their mental health and wellbeing, and encourages to fully implementing it.

While welcoming the Ireland's Second National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence (2016-2021) that envisages a range of actions for State and NGOs, Lithuanian nevertheless recommends that Ireland introduce a domestic violence bill, improve data collection on domestic violence and strengthen support services, including shelters and legal aid, for victims of domestic violence.

Congratulating Ireland for its reputation and track record in protecting human rights and advancing equality, Lithuania however recommends amending the Protection of Life During Pregnancy Act 2013 that the women interests and health are better protected, especially in instances where the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest, or in cases of severe fetal impairment. Moreover, Lithuania recommends that Ireland adopt a comprehensive sexual and reproductive health policy for adolescents and ensure that sexual and reproductive health education is part of the mandatory school curriculum and targeted at adolescents.

Lithuania wishes Ireland a successful review.

Thank you.