

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

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

Permanent Representative of Lithuania

at the review of Tajikistan

Mr. President,

Lithuania warmly welcomes the esteemed delegation of Tajikistan and thanks for its informative National Report. Lithuania commends Tajikistan for its cooperation with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Assistant Secretary-General and OHCHR Regional Office in Bishkek in the field of technical assistance and recommends to issue a standing invitation to the UN special procedures.

We welcome the moratorium on the death penalty and recommend to fully abolishing it, without delay.

Being confident that free and active civil society is a cornerstone of rapid development of the state, Lithuania recommends that Tajikistan bring its law on public associations into line with the ICCPR, reinstate NGOs, which were unlawfully shut down, and refrain from imposing discriminatory restrictions on the freedom of association. Lithuania also recommends ensuring that journalists and other individuals be able to freely exercise the right to freedom of expression and have access to Internet without undue restrictions. Furthermore, we recommend decriminalizing defamation.

Lithuania recommends effective implementing of the CEDAW convention, particularly by changing patriarchal attitudes and eliminating deep-rooted stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society.

While welcoming the law on domestic violence and its associated Programme for 2014–2023, Lithuania recommends Tajikistan to establish a mechanism for its implementation. Additionally, we recommend training of the health care personnel to screen and document instances of domestic violence.

Lithuania wishes Tajikistan a successful review.

Thank you.