*Check against delivery!*

**Statement of the Republic of Latvia**

**26th session of the UPR**

**Review of Lithuania**

Mr. President,

Latvia warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Lithuania headed byVice-Minister of Justice H.E. Paulius Griciūnas, and thanks it for the comprehensive national report prepared in consultation with civil society organizations.

At the outset, my delegation would like to praise Lithuania’s active involvement in the work of the Human Rights Council. We particularly commend Lithuania’s contribution to the promotion of rights of freedom of assembly and of association through submission of relevant initiatives to the Human Rights Council.

We note with appreciation the steps taken to implement recommendations from the first cycle through various measures and legislative initiatives as highlighted in the national report. In this regard, we note in particular initiatives to further strengthen the equality among men and women such as the fourth National Programme on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2015–2021. We would like to **recommend** that Lithuania continue its good efforts to address violence against women and domestic violence.

According to the national report strengthening of national and local government cooperation in the implementation of international human rights standards is highlighted as one of two national priorities for human rights protection. Could delegation provide details on the scope and envisaged outcomes of this exercise?

Finally, we take positive note of application submitted by the National Human Rights Institution for accreditation. We wish to express our hope that by the next review my delegation will be able to congratulate Lithuania with its National Human Rights Institution accredited in full compliance with Paris Principles.

Thank you, Mr. President.