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**UPR of Republic of Lithuania**

**Statement by the Republic of Poland**

*2nd November 2016, Geneva*

Mr. President,

We would like to thank the delegation of Lithuania for the presentation of their national report. Poland acknowledges the efforts taken to implement recommendations of the first UPR cycle and the update of the Lithuanian Government on the status of implementation of the recommendations.

At the same time, we would like to raise some issues with regard to the situation of persons belonging to national minorities in Lithuania. We would like to focus on the right to education which we consider crucial for the full realization of all human rights for all.

We count on an open and constructive approach of the Lithuanian government to this important issue. The recommendations are as follows:

-             To provide proper conditions and financial means for minority language schools within the framework of the education reform without compromising the general quality of education; also in this context, to adopt additional measures to ensure a sufficient transitional period for the educational reform in minority schools.

-             To ensure that the voice and challenges faced by minorities are acknowledged by the authorities and included in the decision-making processes that affect them.

-             To adopt a Law on National Minorities that would safeguard the respect of language rights of minorities in accordance with Lithuania’s international obligations.

-             To sign, ratify and implement the provisions of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.