**Universal Periodic Review of the Republic of Finland**

**Recommendations BY the Republic of Lithuania**

**3rd of May 2017**

Thank you, Mr. President,

Lithuania warmly welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Finland and we wish it success in this UPR Cycle.

We congratulate Finland for their consistent national efforts across a wide range of human rights issues. Finland is an example on how countries should live up to commitments to implement the accepted UPR recommendations.

In particular, we commend Finland for the adoption of the second National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights for 2017–2019, which serves as a platform to improve human rights policies both nationally and internationally. Lithuania praises the high freedom of expression and opinion record that Finland maintains in its free and democratic society.

Lithuania also notes the improvements made in the area of gender equality and the measures that have been taken by all relevant stakeholders in order to further reduce the remaining gaps between men and women in political, social and economic areas. Lithuania expresses support for the efforts made in order to prevent and combat violence against women. We are pleased that this has become one of the top priorities of the Finnish Government since the last UPR Cycle, therefore we recommend Finland to continue its good efforts to address violence against women. In this vein, we would like to ask whether the Government of Finland has taken any steps to measure the economic cost of violence against women.

I thank you, Mr. President.