**Universal Periodic Review of the Republic of India**

**Recommendations by the Republic of Lithuania**

 **May 4, 2017**

Thank you Mr. President,

Lithuania welcomes the Delegation of the Republic of India and wishes it a successful UPR. We are pleased that the Republic of India has made a great effort in further improving their human rights record since the last UPR.

As Lithuania believes that free and independent media and active role of human rights defenders is necessary watchdog for ensuring transparency, rule of law and accountability in the democratic countries*,* we would like to recommend India:

* to carry out independent investigations in all cases of attacks against journalists ,
* to enact a law for the protection of human rights defenders and
* to introduce an official moratorium on the death penalty..

Lastly, Lithuania commends India for the steps taken in addressing violence against women by reforming the Penal Code regarding crimes of rape and sexual assault. However, we would like to recommend to take additional step in criminalizing marital rape.

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I thank you Mr. President.