**Universal Periodic Review of the Republic of GUATEMALA**

**Recommendations BY the Republic of Lithuania**

**Geneva, 8 November 2017**

Lithuania welcomes the esteemed Delegation of the Republic of Guatemala and wishes it success in this UPR cycle. We welcome the voluntary commitments that Guatemala has made in its UPR statement towards further strengthening its human rights protection system.

**We recommend** Guatemala to ensure, through a coordinated and comprehensive institutional effort, access to justice for women who have been victims of violence. We think it would help address the high levels of violence, discrimination and marginalization faced by women, especially those of indigenous or African descent or of rural origin.

Independent and free media are a vital part of a well-functioning democracy. In order to address the persistent problem of attacks on journalists and violations of the right to freedom of expression and to enable media organizations and professionals to work without fear of retribution, **we recommend** Guatemala to adopt a framework for the protection of media professionals, based on the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity.

We welcome the efforts and results of the fight against impunity in Guatemala. In order to better address the recurring hostility towards national and international organizations and human rights defenders who work to ensure accountability for human rights violations, **we recommend** Guatemala to closely cooperate with the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala and to foresee protection measures for human rights defenders in accordance with international commitments.

I thank you, Mr. President.