**Universal Periodic Review**

**of the Islamic republic of pakistan**

**Recommendations BY the Republic of Lithuania**

**Geneva, 13 November 2017**

Lithuania welcomes the esteemed Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and wishes it success in this UPR cycle.

We welcome the establishment of the National Commission of Human Rights in Pakistan as a step towards much-needed strengthening of the capacities of human rights institutions in Pakistan.

In order to ensure adequate protection for media professionals and human rights defenders, **we recommend** Pakistan to amend its national legislation on defamation and blasphemy in accordance with international human rights law.

In face of the considerable levels of discrimination and violence against women in Pakistan, including through parallel justice systems in the form of *jirgas*, and taking into account the underreporting and low conviction rates for such crimes, **we recommend** Pakistan to increase the numbers and quality of gender-sensitive training events on violence against women for the judiciary and law-enforcement agencies.

We note with regret the general lifting of the moratorium on death penalty. We are especially alarmed that some of the persons on the death row have been convicted for crimes that they committed at the age of under 18 years or when the age has not been sufficiently established. Therefore, **we recommend** Pakistan to re-establish the moratorium on death penalty.

I thank you, Mr. President.