**Universal Periodic Review of the republic of zambia**

**Recommendations BY the Republic of Lithuania**

**Geneva, 13 November 2017**

Lithuania warmly welcomes the distinguished Delegation of the Republic of Zambia and wishes it a successful Review. We appreciate the acceptance by the Republic of Zambia of the vast majority of recommendations in the previous UPR cycle. We encourage the Republic of Zambia to continue on that path and, in the new cycle, to address issues that require additional attention.

As the use of criminal defamation laws and the overall harassment practices against independent media organizations seriously restrict the right to freedom of expression, **we recommend** the Republic of Zambia to live up to the highest standards of international law by repealing or amending the criminal defamation clauses in its Penal Code.

Lithuania welcomes the provisions in Zambia’s new Constitution on non-discrimination accompanied by an extensive definition of its forms. We look forward to its implementation in practice. In this regard, **we recommend** the Republic of Zambia to adopt specific legislation to provide women sufficient protection against all discriminatory practices. To achieve this, **we also recommend** to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

I thank you, Mr. President.