Statement by the Republic of Lithuania

UPR38 – Belgium

5th May 2021

Thank you, President.

Lithuania warmly welcomes the delegation of Belgium and thanks it for its National Report.

Lithuania commends the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution. We **recommend** to reform the *Federal Human Rights Institute* so that it is fully compliant with the *Paris Principles* and all human rights issues are within its mandate, including regional competencies and transversal issues.

Lithuania further **recommends** to ratify the *Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture* (OP-CAT) and to establish an effective national preventive mechanism.

Acknowledging Belgium’s efforts in combating gender-based violence, we **recommend** to strengthen the prevention of new forms of violence, such as online harassment.

We wish Belgium a successful review.