**Introduction by H.E. Mr. Darius Staniulis, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Lithuania to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

Madam Vice-President, Members of the Troika, Distinguished Representatives of UN Member States, Members of the Civil Society,

I am honored to address you at the outset of Lithuania’s third universal period review. Allow me to express our appreciation to the Troika and the Secretariat for their support in this process and for facilitation of this meeting. The engagement in the dialogue on human rights is of utmost importance to our country and also, I think, it is of interest to the global community, since it contains sharing the experiences of reforms in respect of human rights, freedom, democracy, and the rule of law. We look forward to a constructive and informative exchange.

The delegation of Lithuania participating in this review is headed by Ms. Jurga Greičienė, Vice Minister of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania. It also includes experienced and highly respected delegates from the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, the Department of National Minorities, the Police Department, as well as from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and from the Permanent Representation of Lithuania to the UN in Geneva.

Now allow me to hand over the floor to the Head of Delegation of the Republic of Lithuania, Ms. Jurga Greičienė, Vice Minister of Justice.