**STATEMENT**

**BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA SUBMITTED TO THE 40TH SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP**

**(review of Lithuania, 26 January 2022, 14:30 - 18:00)**

Speaker: Ms. Kristina Vyšniauskaitė-Radinskienė, Acting Head of Human Rights Division

Madam Vice-President,

Distinguished delegates,

I am honoured to present you the relevant aspects of Lithuanian foreign affairs to this Review.

We are delighted, that Lithuania became a full member of the **UN Human Rights Council for the 2022-2024**. We pay great importance to the principle of universality and indivisibility of human rights, and continue to promote and protect them globally.

As it has been noted by distinguished delegations of Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Argentina, Estonia, Georgia, Luxemburg, Paraguay and Republic of Korea, **Lithuania is a state party to almost all of the United Nations core human rights instruments and their optional protocols.**

Referring to the current recommendations of distinguished delegations of Albania, Italy, and Morocco and as it has been already mentioned in the Opening Statement of the Head of the Lithuanian Delegation, I would like to emphasise that Lithuania is progressing with the ratification process of the **Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure**.

Answering the questions of honourable delegations of Belgium and Romania concerning ratification of the **Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**, the Lithuanian Government concentrates more on the proper implementation of the current international commitments and joined procedures in the field of human rights than accepts new ones. Particularly it is applicable during pandemic and facing hybrid attack organised by the Belarus, by the means of instrumentalised migration.

Referring to the current recommendations of distinguished delegations of Argentina, Bangladesh, Fiji and Niger, Lithuania’s position on ratifying the **International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families** remains the same as in previous years. We believe that the rights of those persons are guaranteed under national and European Union law and under the relevant United Nations human rights instruments that are legally binding on Lithuania. Migrant workers and members of their families enjoy equal access to education, housing, social services and health services. The Government does not see the need for an additional legal regime for those persons.

Answering the question of honourable delegation of Belgium and referring to the number of current recommendations of honourable delegations of Spain, Sweden, Albania, Croatia, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Ireland, Iceland and others on the necessary steps to ratify the **Istanbul Convention**, I would like to emphasise that the draft Law on Ratification of the Convention was registered in Parliament in 2018. The process of improving the national legislation, needed to implement the Convention, continues. Lithuania completed a detailed, comparative examination of the official translation into Lithuanian of the Istanbul Convention. We also proceed with the public discussions at various levels about the provisions of this Convention, and possibilities to ratify it.

We would like to stress, that **Lithuania undertakes decisive steps** to further improvement of the human rights situation in the country with particular attention given to **progress on the implementation of the recommendations addressed to Lithuania during the Universal Periodic Review and other United Nations human rights protection mechanisms**.

Thank you.