Statement by the Republic of Lithuania

UPR40 – Syrian Arab Republic

24th January 2022

Thank you, President.

Lithuania welcomes the delegation of Syria and takes note of its National Report.

We are deeply concerned about the dire human rights situation in the country and recommend the following:

1. To abolish the death penalty.
2. To prohibit trial of civilians in *Military Field Courts*.
3. To ensure access to Syria for humanitarian assistance and independent human rights monitors, including OHCHR and the *Independent Commission of Inquiry* (CoI) to investigate all human rights abuses and violations.
4. To ratify the *Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (ICCPR) and the *Optional Protocol to Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment* (OP-CAT).
5. To conduct a review of national laws and repeal any provisions that discriminate ethnic and religious minorities.
6. To investigate attacks against journalists and human rights defenders, and sentence those accountable.

Lithuania wishes Syria a successful review.

I thank you.