**National Statement by Mr Afaq Ahmad, Counsellor during the 3rd UPR Review of Lithuania**

**40th UPR Session**

**26 January 2022**

**Mr. President,**

We thank the delegation of Lithuania for presenting its 3rd UPR report.

We commend Lithuania’s cooperation with UPR mechanism and acknowledge efforts to strengthen national human rights framework including compliance of Seimas Ombudsperson's Office with the Paris Principles.

However, we share persistent concerns over the rising incidents of hate speech and incitement to violence against migrants, refugees, Roma and Muslim communities, among others. We encourage Lithuania to combat advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred.

We also share CERD’s concerns that Roma community continued to suffer from discrimination and social exclusion as they are disproportionately affected by poverty, including in the areas of housing, health care, employment and education.

We recommend Lithuania to:

1. Amend Criminal Code to combat hate speech and hate crimes on the basis of color, ethnicity and religion.
2. Accelerate efforts towards a comprehensive law on national minorities aimed at promoting their socio-economic integration.
3. Ensure that all counter-terrorism measures comply with international human rights and humanitarian laws.

I thank you.