**Universal Periodic Review – 40th session**

**Lithuania**

**Statement by the Republic of Poland**

*Geneva, 26 January 2022*

*Mr/Ms President,*

Poland would like to thank Lithuania for its participation in the UPR process. We recommend to Lithuania:

* **to continue its efforts to uphold protection of rights of the child and of persons with disabilities;**
* **to finalize the legislative process of the bill on national minorities with a view to safeguard the respect of language rights of minorities in accordance with Lithuania’s international obligations.**

We also reiterate our previous recommendation to:

* **Sign, ratify and implement the provisions of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.**

Poland welcomes the steps undertaken by Lithuania in many areas of promotion and protection of human rights, in particular with regard to rights of persons with disabilities. We also appreciate the Lithuanian strong commitment to promote human rights globally, including in the HRC forum, and the country’s involvement in support to human rights defenders, independent journalists and victims of human rights violations, who find a safe refuge in Lithuania.

At the same time we strongly encourage Lithuania to ensure that challenges faced by its national minorities are properly addressed by the authorities, especially regarding the use of local names in official and minority languages and concerning education in minority languages. We also invite Lithuania to continuously include voices of the minorities’ in decision-making processes concerning them.

*Thank you.*