Statement by the Republic of Lithuania

UPR42 – Gabon

24th January 2023

Thank you Mr. President,

Lithuania warmly welcomes the delegation of Gabon and thanks it for its National Report.

We commend Gabon for human rights developments since the last UPR, in particular the progress made towards achieving gender equality and combatting violence against women.

To achieve further progress, Lithuania would like to provide the following recommendations:

* One, continue to strengthen the implementation of the *Gabon Égalité* strategy through allocating adequate human, technical and financial resources.
* Two, provide the *National Observatory for Children's Rights* with sufficient resources and ensure its autonomy and independence;
* Three, strengthen efforts towards extending free education and promoting inclusive education, particularly for girls and persons with disabilities;
* Four, seek to strengthen the protection of freedom of expression and access to information offline and online by aligning national laws with international standards and refraining from internet shutdown practices.

Lithuania wishes Gabon a successful review.

I thank you Mr. President.