Statement by the Republic of Lithuania

UPR42 – Benin

26th January 2023

Thank you Mr. President,

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

We commend Benin’s progress since the last UPR, namely the abolition of the death penalty, as well as the National Policy on Gender Equality and its related action plan, which created a foundation for better promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls.

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

* One, continue to strengthen cooperation with relevant United Nations expert bodies and provide required resources to expedite the implementation of the National Policy on Gender Equality and its related action plan;
* Two, strengthen efforts to effectively implement all initiatives to combat gender-based violence and other harmful practices affecting women and girls, including detection, reporting and ensuring justice for victims;
* Three, consider amending Digital Code provisions that unnecessarily restrict freedom of expression and infringe the rights of journalists.

Lithuania wishes Benin a successful review.

I thank you Mr. President.