Statement by the Republic of Lithuania

UPR42 – Guatemala

25th January 2023

Thank you Mr. President.

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

We commend Guatemala’s commitments presented today towards further strengthening its human rights system. Also, we note positively the increased efforts to protect women against violence, especially the adoption of the *Strategy for the implementation of the National Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Violence against Women 2020-2029*.

At the 3rd UPR cycle, Lithuania recommended Guatemala to closely cooperate with the *International Commission against Impunity* to investigate and prosecute serious crimes in the country. However, current information shows that this institution has been closed down. In this regard, we want to note that rule of law and accountability are critical for the prevention of further human rights violations.

Lithuania wishes to offer Guatemala the following recommendations:

* One, lift restrictions on the freedom of expression and adopt a framework for the protection of journalists from persecution, intimidation and harassment;
* Two, investigate all threats and attacks against human rights defenders, journalists and media workers, and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice in fair trials.
* Three, take measures to increase representation of women in elected and appointed decision-making positions.

Lithuania wishes Guatemala a successful review.

I thank you.