Statement by the Republic of Lithuania

UPR43 – Tonga

1st May 2023

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

We commend Tonga for human rights developments since the last UPR review. We note positively the increased efforts to combat gender-based violence and to further strengthen the legal framework towards achieving gender equality. However, we remain concerned over retaining the death penalty in law and the increase of domestic violence cases.

Lithuania wishes to offer Tonga the following recommendations:

* One, enhance efforts towards the establishment of an independent National Human Rights Institution, in compliance with the Paris Principles*.*
* Two, consider ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Second Optional Protocol, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.
* Three, continue efforts for monitoring, preventing, and combating all forms of violence and abuse against women and children.
* Four, take measures to increase women’s representation in decision-making positions.
* Five, further strengthen legal and policy framework for persons with disabilities, aiming to ensure better access to education, health care, housing, employment, and information.

Lithuania wishes Tonga a successful review.

I thank you.