Statement by the Republic of Lithuania

UPR43 – Burundi

4th May 2023

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

We acknowledge the Government’s efforts in strengthening national human rights institutions and mechanisms. However, we are deeply concerned about allegations of torture and sexual violence, arbitrary arrests, and detention. We are also concerned that human rights defenders, journalists, and media workers in particular have become targets of violence, harassment and intimidation.

Lithuania wishes to offer Burundi the following recommendations:

* One, take measures to ensure that human rights defenders, journalists, and media workers can exercise their rights to freedoms of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association without fear of reprisals, prosecution or intimidation.
* Two, continue to implement policies to promote the participation of women in decision-making at both national and local levels.
* Three, constructively cooperate with international human rights monitoring mechanisms and allow them unimpeded access to the country.

We wish Burundi a successful review.

I thank you.