Statement by the Republic of Lithuania

UPR43 – Serbia

10th May 2023

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

We commend Serbia’s determination to promote and protect respect for human rights. In particular, we welcome the Constitutional amendments, strengthening the independence and accountability of the judiciary. We also positively note actions further improving protection of children from violence and abuse, as well as the integration of Roma children by ensuring their better access to education.

However, in our view, more efforts are required to implement measures to combat sexual and domestic violence, to ensure legal protection of minors in criminal proceedings and to enhance efforts towards gender equality.

Lithuania wishes to offer Serbia the following recommendations:

* One, consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
* Two, strengthen the mandate and independence of the gender equality bodies, and continue measures to lower the gender pay gap and increase the level of representation of women in decision-making positions.
* Three, take measures to ensure freedom of expression, and prevent media from political and economic influence.

We wish the delegation of Serbia a successful review.

I thank you.