**Statement by the Republic of Lithuania**

**Universal Periodic Review of Uzbekistan, 30th Session,**

**9 May 2018, 9:00-12:30**

Thank you, Mr. President,

Lithuania welcomes the delegation of Uzbekistan and commends it for the constructive participation in the UPR process**.** Today, my Foreign Minister completes a two-day visit to your hospitable country.

To address current human rights concerns in Uzbekistan, Lithuania recommends the Government of Uzbekistan:

1. To grant access to places of detention to independent monitors;
2. To ratify the OP-CAT;
3. To review the June 2015 law on NGOs and the laws on defamation, in order to bring them in line with international standards, including Uzbekistan’s obligations under the ICCPR;
4. To ensure, that NGOs, human rights defenders, journalists and other members of civil society can freely exercise their rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly.

We note with appreciation Uzbekistan’s commitments to important reforms in the area of human rights. We welcome enhanced cooperation with the OHCHR, and achieved progress in eliminating the child labour and in the release of detained political activists, human rights defenders and journalists. The release of Bobomurod Abdullaev and Khayotkhan Nasriddinov a few days ago leaves no journalists behind bars in Uzbekistan for the first time in two decades, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ).

Lithuania wishes Uzbekistan all success in current UPR cycle and in implementing the recommendations.

Thank you, Mr. President.