



General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 April 2022

Original: English

Human Rights Council

Fiftieth session

13 June–8 July 2022

Agenda item 6

Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Lithuania

* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the language of submission only.



Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its fortieth session from 24 January to 11 February 2022. The review of Lithuania was held at the 6th meeting, on 26 January 2022. The delegation of Lithuania was headed by the Vice-Minister of Justice, Jurga Greičienė. At its 14th meeting, held on 1 February 2022, the Working Group adopted the report on Lithuania
2. On 12 January 2022, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Lithuania: Pakistan, Paraguay and Poland.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Lithuania:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a);¹
 - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b);²
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c).³
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Panama, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Lithuania through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation described the main institutional and regulatory changes that Lithuania had made in the context of human rights, as well as the challenges it faced.
6. The accreditation of the Seimas ombudspersons' office as a national human rights institution with A status under the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) was the most significant institutional change.
7. Social policy and human rights were at the centre of the National Progress Plan for 2021–2030. The Plan set out the horizontal principles of equal opportunities and gender equality as the main criteria in achieving the goals contained in the Plan.
8. Lithuania had made a significant step forward in children's rights protection by completely prohibiting any violence, including corporal punishment, against children.
9. Considerable progress in reducing the gender wage gap had been achieved. According to the *Global Gender Gap Report 2021*, published by the World Economic Forum, Lithuania was one of the five most-improved countries.
10. Gender equality had improved with regard to the representation of women in the highest offices in politics and in the public sector. For the first time, Lithuania had been elected to the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), serving for the period 2020–2022. The delegation described measures taken to prevent and combat domestic violence and violence against women and noted that the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) was on the political agenda.

¹ [A/HRC/WG.6/40/LTU/1](#).

² [A/HRC/WG.6/40/LTU/2](#).

³ [A/HRC/WG.6/40/LTU/3](#).

11. The policy on the integration of persons with disabilities had significantly changed, shifting from a support approach towards capacity-building and promotion of independent living. Further measures were provided within the 2021–2023 action plan for the social integration of persons with disabilities. Lithuania had joined the World Health Organization QualityRights initiative, aimed at changing mindsets and practices and improving the lives of persons with disabilities.

12. Lithuania was among the few European Union countries that had adopted a cross-sectoral plan to manage the adverse effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on mental health.

13. With regard to the status of the national minorities, the Ministry of Justice was drafting a new law on national minorities. The delegation noted recent legislative amendments granting national minorities the right to write their names in their original language.

14. The delegation shared the country's concerns about an increased irregular migration in the previous year, supported by Belarus authorities.

15. The representative of Belarus raised a point of order denouncing the terminology used and requested that the Vice-President of the Human Rights Council presiding over the meeting call on the delegation to adhere to official United Nations terminology.

16. The Vice-President of the Council recalled that the universal periodic review was a substantive mechanism of the Human Rights Council aimed at discussing the human rights situation of all States Members of the United Nations in a spirit of cooperation, respect and transparency. She also stated that it was expected that, when sharing views and positions, delegations would do so in full respect of United Nations terminology, rules and standards.

17. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela intervened in support of the point of order made by Belarus, stressing the importance that delegations respect the universal periodic review and United Nations terminology.

18. The Vice-President of the Council reiterated her ruling.

19. The delegation of Lithuania stated that the country had been compelled to declare a state of emergency. A decisive element in shaping the country's response towards the stabilization of the situation was the excellent cooperation with non-governmental organizations, members of the European Union, agencies, and international and humanitarian organizations, namely the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), the European Asylum Support Office and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. With regard to combating hate crime and hate speech, joint training had been provided for police officers, prosecutors and judges, in order to strengthen their capacities in recognizing hate crime and hate speech, to improve investigation and prosecution and ensure adequate punishment, and to respond to the needs of the victims.

20. Owing to the legislative amendments enabling the wider use of the suspension of sentences, conditional release and alternatives to imprisonment, the total number of inmates had decreased by an additional 21 per cent, and the number of applications for conditional release had doubled (since 2018).

21. Lastly, the delegation noted that during the consideration of the fourth periodic report of Lithuania, the Committee against Torture had commended the country's efforts to combat trafficking in persons, which had included the extension of criminal liability, a wide range of training activities and the adoption of the Inter-institutional Action Plan on Combating Human Trafficking.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

22. During the interactive dialogue, 82 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

23. Serbia commended Lithuania for all the measures taken in order to respond to the universal periodic review recommendations.

24. Slovakia condemned the instrumentalization of migration for political motives and noted the importance of managing the migratory situation in accordance with international legal obligations.
25. Slovenia commended Lithuania for the adoption of the national programme for the prevention of domestic violence and provision of assistance to victims.
26. Spain acknowledged the efforts made by Lithuania to improve the situation of women since the previous universal periodic review, including through amendments to the law on equal opportunities.
27. The State of Palestine commended the efforts made in combating hate crime, including through the project on strengthening the response to hate crimes and hate speech.
28. Sweden welcomed the adoption of legislation to protect children from domestic corporal punishment. However, it remained concerned regarding the pending ratification of the Istanbul Convention.
29. The Syrian Arab Republic took note of the presentation made by Lithuania.
30. Timor-Leste noted with appreciation the adoption of the action plan on the implementation of the national programme on equal opportunities for women and men.
31. Tunisia welcomed the country's ratification of most core human rights instruments and the adoption of policies on gender equality and the protection of children.
32. Turkey expressed appreciation for the efforts made by Lithuania to protect and promote human rights and expressed sadness that irregular migrants at the border were experiencing difficult conditions.
33. Turkmenistan noted with appreciation the accreditation of the Seimas ombudsmen's office as a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles, with A status.
34. Ukraine noted the strengthening by Lithuania of the independence of the national human rights institution and the country's strong record of ratification of core human rights.
35. The United Kingdom urged Lithuania to continue to provide the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with access to asylum seekers and migrants on the border.
36. The United Republic of Tanzania commended Lithuania for the implementation of various initiatives, including the adoption of policies to implement the recommendations accepted during the previous universal periodic review.
37. The United States of America commended Lithuania for holding the Future of Democracy forum, and for its support for democratic actors in exile from Belarus, the Russian Federation and other authoritarian Governments.
38. Belarus once again raised a point of order denouncing the use of language that was contrary to United Nations terminology and requested that the Vice-President of the Human Rights Council remind all delegations of the need to adhere to official United Nations terminology.
39. The Vice-President stated that it was of the utmost importance that when discussing human rights issues everybody respected each other's views and that delegations uphold United Nations terminology and standards when referring to countries and territories.
40. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela intervened in support of the point of order made by Belarus, stressing that disrespectful terminology should not be used in the universal periodic review, which was a forum for dialogue and cooperation.
41. The Vice-President reiterated her previous ruling.
42. Uruguay welcomed the efforts made by Lithuania in the area of human rights, including through the 2021–2023 Action Plan for the Promotion of Non-discrimination.
43. Uzbekistan welcomed the accreditation with A status of the office of the ombudsmen, the improvement in the protection of children's rights and the role of young people in society.

44. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expressed its deep concerns about the human rights situation in Lithuania.
45. Afghanistan commended strides made towards being a more inclusive society, but remained concerned about the denial of access to asylum procedures.
46. Albania welcomed the accreditation of the office of the ombudsmen under the Paris Principles, the increased representation of women in political life and the progress made on children's rights.
47. Algeria noted with appreciation the accreditation of the office of the ombudsmen and the 2017–2020 action plan to promote non-discrimination and efforts to promote the inclusion of foreigners.
48. Argentina welcomed the recent provision approved by the Ministry of Justice allowing the change of name and surname for transgender persons of legal age.
49. Armenia welcomed the increase in the number of women holding leadership positions and the policy measures taken to combat trafficking in persons.
50. Australia welcomed the country's progress in continuing to address violence and discrimination against women and girls, as well as against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, through better education programmes.
51. The Bahamas commended Lithuania for measures to protect the rights of children and persons with disabilities and for achievements in women's representation in leadership and decision-making roles.
52. Bangladesh expressed appreciation for the strengthening of human rights institutions but expressed concern at reports of intolerance of, and prejudice and hate crimes against, minority groups, migrants and refugees.
53. Belarus stated that the real scale of human rights issues in Lithuania could not be measured as it had not been visited by the special procedures for 15 years.
54. Belgium stated that notwithstanding achievements made by Lithuania, further progress could be made regarding the rights of women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.
55. Brazil commended Lithuania for the adoption of measures aimed at protecting children. It expressed concern over reports of intolerance and encouraged Lithuania to combat discrimination and hate speech.
56. Bulgaria praised the preparation of the upcoming programme for the development of an environment suitable for persons with disabilities in all areas of life.
57. Canada noted the exceptional increase in the influx of asylum seekers and encouraged Lithuania to continue to adapt its procedures in accordance with its international obligations.
58. Chile highlighted the adoption, in 2016, of the 2017–2019 action plan for combating trafficking in persons.
59. China expressed concern about racism and xenophobia; the violation of the rights of, and abuse of, of ethnic minorities, refugees and migrants; domestic violence; and conditions in detention facilities.
60. Croatia commended Lithuania for amendments to the Criminal Code establishing criminal liability for acts of discrimination based on sex, gender and sexual orientation.
61. Cuba expressed concern regarding discrimination against minorities, and urged Lithuania to intensify efforts to achieve significant improvements in that regard.
62. Cyprus welcomed the country's signature of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, and the progress made in protecting migrants' rights while addressing unprecedented irregular influxes.
63. Czechia commended Lithuania for its progress regarding the effective functioning of the national preventive mechanism, and for measures taken to eliminate prison overcrowding.

64. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea expressed concern about continued human rights violations in Lithuania.
65. Denmark welcomed measures to combat gender-based violence, but expressed concern about the protection of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons from discrimination and about the lack of legal recognition of same-sex couples.
66. The Dominican Republic encouraged Lithuania to continue strengthening its normative framework for promoting and protecting human rights.
67. In response to questions raised or comments made by Belgium, Panama, Spain and Sweden, the delegation indicated that Lithuania shared their concerns with respect to violence against women and domestic violence, and issues relating to equal pay, social inclusion of the elderly, migrants in irregular situations, the Roma community, and measures taken to ensure better social security for every group in society.
68. The social policy of Lithuania was sustainable, inclusive and targeted to the needs of individuals. Five newly adopted long-term development programmes would be implemented by 2030.
69. Responding to comments from Estonia and France, the delegation reported that a new model of employment was being developed to address the employment gap faced by persons with disabilities.
70. Lithuania made significant efforts to protect the rights of the child. The centralized system obliged institutions to be able to respond to reports of possible child rights violations at any time of day or night, seven days per week.
71. With regard to women's rights, Lithuania indicated that women were actively involved in political leadership and in the high-value-added sectors of the economy.
72. Referring to comments made by Bangladesh, the delegation emphasized the government initiatives aimed at reducing the gender pay gap. The remuneration system was constructed to avoid discrimination on the ground of gender. Employers were legally obliged to approve pay systems and make them available to all employees.
73. The delegation shared that 2022 had been declared as the Year of Youth in Lithuania.
74. In response to concerns raised by Canada and Denmark regarding the status of same-sex partnerships, and the related question from Sweden, the delegation reaffirmed the commitment of Lithuania to grant the full enjoyment of rights to same-sex partners, and provided information about developments in that respect.
75. Addressing questions submitted by Belgium and Sweden, the delegation acknowledged that, despite the existence of a comprehensive legal framework, the problem of domestic violence remained significant in the country. A draft legislative proposal would introduce an emergency protection order in order to better protect persons at risk of violence and provide for urgent separation from the abusive partner or relative. Work to prevent domestic violence had been enhanced through the specialized national programme for the prevention of domestic violence and provision of assistance to victims. To address a one-time spike in domestic violence, Lithuania had reacted swiftly at the beginning of the pandemic: an action plan involving tailor-made measures to improve victims' access to aid had been adopted and preventive actions directed at potential perpetrators had been taken. The law on assistance for victims of crime provided for the establishment of a comprehensive mechanism to provide assistance for the victims of any crime throughout the criminal proceedings.
76. The delegation underscored the successful legislative reform in the field of mental health care, aimed primarily at protecting the rights of involuntarily hospitalized patients. The country was, however, still in the process of establishing best practices. Lithuania recognized the importance of preventing the application of involuntary measures by reducing the need for them, and of increasing efforts to expand alternatives to involuntary hospitalization.
77. Regarding comments made by Bulgaria and questions posed by Panama, the delegation expressed the view that children with special educational needs should be

educated in a way that best met their educational and support needs. The Law on Education obliged all mainstream schools to accept children with special educational needs, as of 2024.

78. Several delegations, including Belgium, Canada, Slovakia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Kingdom and the United States, and the State of Palestine, submitted questions and/or made comments regarding combating hate crime and hate speech. The delegation of Lithuania presented a five-pillar approach and relevant measures that had been taken as a response to hate speech: building trust between law enforcement and the vulnerable communities in order to increase reporting; improving the recording and investigation of hate crimes; strengthening the skills of law enforcement and members of the judiciary; strengthening cooperation between non-governmental organizations and the Government; and supporting the victims of such crimes.

79. Responding to a comment from the Bahamas, Lithuania indicated that new amendments to the Criminal Code expanded the list of criteria for hate crimes by including colour of skin and ethnic origin.

80. Addressing questions and recommendations from the United Kingdom and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) regarding the rights of transgender persons, the delegation acknowledged that the recognition of the legal status of transgender persons remained an issue, although transgender persons could change their names to names specific to the opposite sex if they so wished.

81. In response to questions posed by and/or comments from Belgium, Brazil, Panama and Spain regarding the criminalization of marital rape, Lithuania reaffirmed that any form of sexual abuse, including marital rape, was already criminalized under the Criminal Code, as confirmed in case law.

82. Responding to a question submitted by Spain and a comment from Argentina, the delegation specified that criminal liability was applied in the context of illegal abortions.

83. In response to comments from China and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) relating to imprisonment, the delegation underlined that the Criminal Code had been supplemented with the introduction of a new offence of torture, that the possibilities for the application of bail had been extended and that other measures were envisioned.

84. Regarding a comment from Czechia relating to the Law on the Protection of Minors against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information, Lithuania noted that the monitoring of the application of the law's relevant provisions had not revealed any form of discrimination.

85. Egypt commended the progress made by Lithuania in the promotion of the rights of young people, women and persons with disabilities, the integration of migrants, and combating hate speech.

86. Estonia welcomed the accreditation of the Seimas ombudsmen's office with A status, in line with the Paris Principles, and the country's provision of additional funding for protecting asylum seekers.

87. Fiji congratulated Lithuania for regulatory and policy changes, such as the adoption of the National Progress Plan for 2021–2030, which set measurable targets in social policy and human rights.

88. Finland welcomed the improvements made by Lithuania in the areas of gender equality and increasing the participation of women in politics and society.

89. France welcomed progress made by Lithuania in the field of human rights, particularly regarding judicial independence and combating corruption.

90. Georgia welcomed the country's ratification of core human rights instruments and the implementation of the 2017–2019 action plan for combating trafficking in human beings.

91. Germany commended efforts made by Lithuania to address domestic violence effectively and for legislation allowing transgender people to change their name.

92. Greece commended Lithuania for amending its domestic legislation on the protection of the rights of the child and adopting action plans for the promotion of equal opportunities.

93. Iceland welcomed the delegation and its national report.
94. India expressed appreciation for the country's submission of various treaty body reports and the development of sector policies guiding the promotion and protection of human rights.
95. Indonesia expressed appreciation for the country's strengthening of legislation aimed at providing better protection for children.
96. The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomed the delegation.
97. Iraq expressed appreciation for efforts to amend the Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child and the subsequent awareness campaigns.
98. Ireland welcomed the 2017 amendments to the Criminal Code and notable progress in strengthening legislation on domestic violence, including amendments to improve assistance for victims.
99. Israel commended Lithuania for including young people in decision-making and recognized progress made towards ensuring the full enjoyment of human rights by LGBTIQ+ persons.
100. Italy welcomed the adoption of several action plans for promoting and protecting human rights, including the Action Plan for the Promotion of Non-discrimination.
101. Japan expressed great appreciation for the positive steps taken since the previous review cycle, notably for protecting children from human rights violations.
102. Jordan commended Lithuania for its methodology for preparing the national report in cooperation and consultation with all relevant stakeholders.
103. Latvia welcomed the criminalization of torture in conformity with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and the introduction of a complete prohibition of the use of corporal punishment on children.
104. Lebanon commended Lithuania for the criminalization of torture in conformity with the Convention against Torture.
105. Liechtenstein thanked the delegation for the information provided in the introductory statement and national report.
106. Luxembourg noted with great satisfaction that Lithuania had ratified almost all core United Nations human rights instruments and Optional Protocols thereto.
107. Malaysia expressed the hope that the Government would continue to empower women, and encouraged Lithuania to take steps to further integrate women facing various challenges.
108. Maldives welcomed the implementation of measures to prevent domestic violence and human trafficking and to integrate national minorities and migrants.
109. The Marshall Islands welcomed efforts to combat domestic violence through the National Programme for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Provision of Assistance to Victims and endeavours to address climate change.
110. Mexico welcomed the Law on Strategic Management, which enshrined gender equality as a cross-cutting principle, and the Law on Assistance for Victims of Criminal Offences.
111. Montenegro echoed the recommendation made by the Human Rights Committee that Lithuania strengthen efforts to combat discrimination, stereotypes and prejudice towards vulnerable and minority groups.
112. Morocco welcomed the establishment of the National Progress Plan for 2021–2030 as a reference framework for protecting and promoting human rights.
113. Nepal hailed the international accreditation of the Seimas ombudspersons' office as a national human rights institution with A status, and efforts for the inclusion of national minorities.

114. The Netherlands commended the Government of Lithuania on its firm support for dissidents of the Russian and Belarusian opposition and for supporting human rights defenders.

115. The Niger took note of the different national action plans introduced, including the Action Plan for the Promotion of Non-discrimination.

116. Norway welcomed important progress towards further protection of human rights, but noted that there was a need to strengthen the response to domestic and gender-based violence.

117. Pakistan commended Lithuania for its efforts to strengthen the human rights framework, while expressing concern over rising incidents of incitement to violence against migrants, refugees and the Roma and Muslim communities.

118. Paraguay expressed appreciation for the efforts to protect the rights of persons with disabilities and improvements in domestic legislation to ensure equality between women and men.

119. The Philippines acknowledged the steps taken to combat trafficking in persons and to promote the participation of women in the public sphere.

120. Poland encouraged Lithuania to address challenges faced by its national minorities, inviting the country to continuously include their voices in the decision-making processes concerning them.

121. Portugal expressed appreciation for the recently adopted regulation allowing transgender persons to change their names, and for efforts to improve the access of young persons to free mental health services.

122. The Republic of Korea welcomed the work of the Seimas ombudsmen's office and commended the country's efforts in strengthening the legal and institutional framework for the protection of children's rights.

123. The Republic of Moldova welcomed the adoption of the National Progress Plan for 2021–2030, aimed at ensuring equal opportunities and gender equality.

124. Romania congratulated Lithuania for its election as a member of the Human Rights Council and commended its achievements in advancing the human rights legal and policy framework.

125. The Russian Federation was concerned at the delay in the adoption of the law on national minorities, and at the policy to make the so-called Lithuanian partisans into heroes.

126. Senegal welcomed the accreditation of the Seimas ombudsmen's office in line with the Paris Principles, and measures to combat hate speech.

127. On the issue of migration and asylum, the delegation stressed that Lithuania had suffered an unprecedented hybrid attack by means of instrumentalized migration. The asylum and reception systems had been intentionally overwhelmed with the artificially facilitated migrant flows, with the deliberate goal to limit response capabilities and endanger the lives of irregular migrants. However, the domestic procedures had been adapted and currently the system was functioning properly, in accordance with the requirements of international law.

128. In response to a question submitted by Spain, and comments and/or recommendations made by Estonia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Morocco and Portugal, the delegation highlighted, among other things, that the asylum procedures were transparent, the rights of asylum seekers were fully respected, namely, access to legal aid was granted, judicial appeals were provided for, and asylum applications were examined strictly, applying an individual approach. Moreover, vulnerable groups, such as families, minors, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, were accommodated separately, and their asylum procedures were prioritized. It was envisioned that, from 2022, it would be possible for children seeking asylum to attend pre-school or school.

129. The delegation confirmed the country's commitment to reducing statelessness. In response to comments from the United Kingdom and Uruguay, it pointed out that the number of stateless persons was constantly decreasing.

130. With regard to the issue on the rights of the national minorities raised by a number of delegations (Afghanistan, Albania, Belarus, China, Croatia, Cuba, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Lebanon, Montenegro, Pakistan, Poland, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkmenistan and the United Kingdom), Lithuania noted that all national minorities (Belarusian, Polish, Russian and others) residing in Lithuania were well integrated. Children attended national kindergartens and schools; they learned in their mother tongues, and the Lithuanian language was taught as a separate subject. Persons belonging to the national minorities participated fully in social life, the labour market, science, politics, and public and cultural life.

131. In response to comments from Bangladesh, Brazil, Croatia, Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Romania, Spain, Tunisia, the United States, Uzbekistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) on the rights of Roma, Lithuania highlighted that the measures outlined in the strategic action plans and the action plan for the integration of Roma into Lithuanian society for 2015–2020 had been successfully implemented, and a new plan was being drafted. Roma pupils were enrolled in general education institutions in Lithuania in more than half of the municipalities, and individual measures to improve the social and educational situation of Roma pupils were taken.

132. In reference to comments from Liechtenstein, Nepal, the United Kingdom and the United States, the delegation emphasized the seriousness of the approach that the State had taken with regard to trafficking in persons and modern slavery. The policy in that area was coordinated at the highest level. A coordinating body had been established by the Government, comprising representatives of all relevant stakeholders, namely, the Government and non-governmental organizations.

133. With regard to questions posed and/or comments made by Albania, Morocco and Italy, the delegation noted that the process for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure was progressing.

134. Regarding the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Government's position had not changed since the second universal periodic review cycle. That was relevant to recommendations made by Bangladesh, Belgium, Fiji, the Niger, the Philippines and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

135. Responding to questions and recommendations submitted by Belgium, Croatia, Romania, Spain, Sweden and others, on the ratification of the Istanbul Convention, the delegation emphasized that the relevant draft law had been registered in the Parliament in 2018. The work on the improvements of the national legislation related to the implementation of the Convention was ongoing.

136. Lastly, the delegation commented on certain issues raised during the universal periodic review process. The end of the Second World War had not brought peace to Lithuania, but rather hard years of occupation. Lithuanian freedom fighters were the real partisans who had upheld hope for an independent country fighting the brutal communist occupation. Only by recognizing crimes committed by all totalitarian regimes and respecting fallen victims could it be ensured that such crimes were never repeated in the future. The horrors of the Holocaust and the Gulag would remain black pages in history.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

137. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Lithuania and enjoy the support of Lithuania:**

137.1 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Italy);**

137.2 **Expedite the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) (Sweden);**

- 137.3 Step up efforts to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Albania);
- 137.4 Consider ratifying the European human rights instrument, the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) (Dominican Republic);
- 137.5 Consider ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Greece);
- 137.6 Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) (Belgium) (Croatia) (Cyprus) (Spain);
- 137.7 Ratify the Istanbul Convention, and harmonize the national legislation accordingly (Mexico);
- 137.8 Strengthen the legal framework for the protection of women against violence, including by ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) (Denmark);
- 137.9 Ratify and implement the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) (Finland);
- 137.10 Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) and criminalize all forms of domestic violence (Iceland);
- 137.11 Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), and accelerate implementation of legislation designed to protect and assist victims of domestic violence (Ireland);
- 137.12 Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, and increase efforts to support and protect women survivors of gender-based violence, including domestic violence (Italy);
- 137.13 Ratify the Istanbul Convention in order to prevent and combat stereotypes and gender-based violence against women and further reflect this in its national legislation (Liechtenstein);
- 137.14 Ratify, as soon as possible, the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women, known as the Istanbul Convention, signed by Lithuania in 2013 (Luxembourg);
- 137.15 Ratify without delay the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) (Netherlands);
- 137.16 Ratify the Istanbul Convention to strengthen its response to domestic and gender-based violence (Norway);
- 137.17 Take further steps to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) (Georgia);
- 137.18 Strengthen efforts to fight all forms of discrimination against women and gender-based violence, including by ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) (Germany);

- 137.19 **Conclude the process of ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Portugal);**
- 137.20 **Continue its efforts to improve the national legislation, enabling it to finalize the process of ratification and further implementation of the Istanbul Convention (Romania);**
- 137.21 **Take all necessary steps in order to adopt the Istanbul Convention (Republic of Moldova);**
- 137.22 **Organize without further delay visits to the country by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants and the Special Rapporteur on minority issues (Belarus);**
- 137.23 **Allocate sufficient funding to the office of the Seimas ombudsmen so that it can effectively and independently fulfil its mandate, including in the new areas of competence (Serbia);**
- 137.24 **Continue efforts aimed at ensuring sufficient funding for human rights institutions (Ukraine);**
- 137.25 **Amend the Law on Equal Treatment to include “colour” and “descent” among the prohibited grounds of discrimination (Bahamas);**
- 137.26 **Reinforce the anti-discrimination provisions in its Law on Equal Treatment and Criminal Code, including by expressly forbidding discrimination on the basis of “colour” and “descent” (Brazil);**
- 137.27 **Strengthen its efforts to combat intolerance, stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination towards vulnerable groups and increase its efforts to prevent hate speech and hate crimes (Slovakia);**
- 137.28 **Consider adopting national legislation to combat hate speech, as well as undertaking educational and awareness-raising programmes to eliminate hate speech towards minorities (Dominican Republic);**
- 137.29 **Continue its efforts to combat hate speech and hate crimes, including through implementing the project on strengthening the response to hate crimes and hate speech in Lithuania, and to improve its legal and institutional frameworks for protection against discrimination, especially against vulnerable and minority groups (State of Palestine);**
- 137.30 **Increase efforts to combat hate speech and hate crimes, alongside training of journalists and awareness-raising campaigns aimed at eliminating negative stereotypes (Republic of Moldova);**
- 137.31 **Adopt a comprehensive national plan to prevent and combat hate speech and related crimes (Syrian Arab Republic);**
- 137.32 **Strengthen ongoing efforts to combat hate speech and hate crimes against minority groups (Republic of Korea);**
- 137.33 **Strengthen measures to prevent and combat hate speech and hate or racially motivated crimes against minorities or persons in vulnerable situations, and provide adequate human rights training on these issues to police officers, prosecutors and judges (Portugal);**
- 137.34 **Amend the Criminal Code to combat hate speech and hate crimes on the basis of colour, ethnicity and religion (Pakistan);**
- 137.35 **Step up efforts to counter stereotypes, prejudice, intolerance and hate crimes against anyone on any ground (Bangladesh);**
- 137.36 **Intensify efforts to prevent hate speech and national, racial and religious hate crimes, ensure reporting of racist hate crimes and enforce justice to hold perpetrators accountable (Jordan);**

- 137.37 **Intensify awareness campaigns to combat hate speech at all levels (Iraq);**
- 137.38 **Combat systemic discrimination and hate crimes against ethnic minorities, and eliminate racism and xenophobia from its root (China);**
- 137.39 **Take further measures to prevent hate speech and hate crimes (India);**
- 137.40 **Intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of discrimination, including hate speech, and hate crimes based on ethnicity, religion, including antisemitism, and sexual orientation (Cyprus);**
- 137.41 **Adopt and implement a comprehensive national strategy against all forms of racial hate crimes and discrimination (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**
- 137.42 **Ensure that any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence is prohibited by law (Slovakia);**
- 137.43 **Prohibit by law any advocacy of national, racial, religious or gender-based hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence (Cuba);**
- 137.44 **Eliminate hate crimes on the basis of disability, transgender identity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation, including towards national minorities, by ensuring adequate funding and training for officials and ensuring victims can easily report such crimes (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 137.45 **Work to strengthen efforts to combat intolerance against minorities, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers (Jordan);**
- 137.46 **Continue building a more LGBTQI+ inclusive society and ensure legal protection of family life of same-sex couples, including by adopting legislation that would provide for legal recognition of same-sex partnerships, and by developing a national strategy on LGBTQI+ equality (Finland);**
- 137.47 **Strengthen measures aimed at fighting discrimination against LGBTQI persons and at preventing, investigating and punishing acts of discrimination and violence against them (Germany);**
- 137.48 **Implement legal and administrative reforms to ensure non-discrimination of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people, such as providing legal recognition of same-sex partnerships, legal gender recognition, gender-affirming health care for transgender persons and combating hate speech and hate crime (Norway);**
- 137.49 **Legally recognize same-sex couples and develop legislation facilitating gender reassignment procedures and change of marital status without the need to undergo a gender reassignment surgery (Spain);**
- 137.50 **Continue reaffirming its commitment to the principles of equality and non-discrimination, including by promoting the introduction of legislation aimed at recognizing same-sex couples and their rights on an equal basis (Uruguay);**
- 137.51 **Adopt legislation that recognizes different forms of partnerships and that grants same-sex couples the same rights as heterosexual couples (Netherlands);**
- 137.52 **Consider adopting the gender-neutral partnership law proposed by the Government (Israel);**
- 137.53 **Implement an inclusive concept of civil partnership in national laws to combat discrimination against same-sex couples and reduce discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression (Canada);**

- 137.54 **Ensure de jure and de facto recognition of equality and family rights of same-sex couples (Belgium);**
- 137.55 **Recognize family rights and equality of same-sex couples (Iceland);**
- 137.56 **Enact legislation to prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation by ensuring equality for diverse families and same-sex couples, including recognition of foreign same-sex unions (Australia);**
- 137.57 **Increase efforts to combat intolerance, stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination against vulnerable and minority groups (Chile);**
- 137.58 **Ensure that all counter-terrorism measures comply with international human rights and humanitarian laws (Pakistan);**
- 137.59 **Investigate and hold accountable those responsible for ill-treatment of prisoners and abuse or violence in detention facilities (China);**
- 137.60 **Continue to strengthen the independence of the judiciary through a transparent system for appointing judges and prosecutors (France);**
- 137.61 **Ensure that conditions of detention comply with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), and put an end to the serious problems of solitary confinement and the terrible hygiene conditions in prisons (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 137.62 **Take effective steps to address the problems of overcrowding and poor conditions in places of detention (Uzbekistan);**
- 137.63 **Follow up the recommendations of the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment to improve the functioning of the correctional services (Norway);**
- 137.64 **Fully decriminalize defamation and place it within a civil code in accordance with international standards (Montenegro);**
- 137.65 **Continue to implement measures to ensure freedom of expression for all (Japan);**
- 137.66 **Continue its efforts to prevent trafficking in human beings (Nepal);**
- 137.67 **Combat human trafficking and sexual exploitation (China);**
- 137.68 **Continue its efforts to strengthen gender-sensitive training on all aspects of trafficking in persons, in particular women and girls, for judges, prosecutors, police officers and border guards, and to effectively prosecute and adequately punish perpetrators of acts of trafficking (Liechtenstein);**
- 137.69 **Strengthen efforts in the field of combating human trafficking and in enhancing assistance to its victims, in order to reintegrate them into society (Iraq);**
- 137.70 **Take all necessary measures to combat trafficking in persons and provide adequate human and financial resources to support victims of trafficking (Indonesia);**
- 137.71 **Continue efforts to strengthen gender-sensitive training on all aspects of trafficking in persons, in particular women and girls, for judges, prosecutors, and other law enforcement agencies (India);**
- 137.72 **Continue its efforts to strengthen the coordination of, and improve, the combating of trafficking in human beings at state and municipal levels (Georgia);**
- 137.73 **Eliminate trafficking in women and girls for purposes of sexual exploitation and ensure that cases of trafficking are thoroughly investigated, perpetrators are prosecuted and punished, and victims and their families are provided with full reparation (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

- 137.74 **Develop in line with international standards a national referral mechanism for victims of trafficking (Belarus);**
- 137.75 **Increase efforts to proactively identify sex trafficking and labour trafficking victims (United States of America);**
- 137.76 **Increase their efforts to prevent trafficking and identify modern slavery victims, including by increasing training on the use of the national referral mechanism (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 137.77 **Take further measures to ensure eradication of human trafficking, by thoroughly investigating relevant cases and holding perpetrators to account (Cyprus);**
- 137.78 **Further the efforts with regard to policy measures undertaken to fight trafficking in human beings, in particular financial allocations for the protection of victims, specifically targeting the exploitation of vulnerable groups (Armenia);**
- 137.79 **Take further steps to address trafficking in persons by creating a national strategy, implementing programmes to provide assistance to victims, as well as awareness-raising programmes for the general population (Dominican Republic);**
- 137.80 **Build on the interinstitutional action plan of 2016 to pursue the efforts made in combating human trafficking (Lebanon);**
- 137.81 **Fully implement the 2020–2022 action plan for combating trafficking in human beings and consider conducting a widespread anti-trafficking public awareness campaign (Bahamas);**
- 137.82 **Successfully finalize implementation of the action plan for 2020–2022 for combating trafficking in human beings (Ukraine);**
- 137.83 **Consider strengthening efforts to prevent trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, to take additional steps to improve the assistance for victims of trafficking and to continue to enhance gender-sensitive training on all aspects of trafficking in persons for judges, prosecutors, police officers and border guards (Timor-Leste);**
- 137.84 **Reduce the poverty rate and protect the rights of vulnerable groups (China);**
- 137.85 **Improve the financing of social services and thus assure their quality, giving priority to childcare facilities (Estonia);**
- 137.86 **Further implement integrated measures for poverty reduction and social inclusion, especially among seniors, people with disabilities, single people, and single parents (Estonia);**
- 137.87 **Allocate sufficient resources for the protection of its children and the prevention of suicide among young people, as the country has the highest suicide rate in the world (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 137.88 **Strengthen efforts to reduce the high pregnancy rate among Roma girls, and ensure the accessibility and availability of sexual and reproductive health education and services and affordable contraception for all women (Malaysia);**
- 137.89 **Improve access to adequate sexual and reproductive health services, in particular to antenatal, delivery and postnatal services (Fiji);**
- 137.90 **Take concrete measures to guarantee that vulnerable groups, particularly Roma, have access to adequate health care (Brazil);**
- 137.91 **Strengthen the actions and programmes put in place in the field of education on human rights, including with the aim of preventing manifestations of hatred (Romania);**

- 137.92 **Strengthen the education system to ensure educational opportunities to all, including vulnerable groups (Maldives);**
- 137.93 **Remove obstacles hindering the inclusion of children with special educational needs in the education system (India);**
- 137.94 **Implement further measures to ensure full access to education for children from vulnerable groups (Bulgaria);**
- 137.95 **Continue expanding its human rights education programmes, comprehensively and permanently, at all levels (Algeria);**
- 137.96 **Pursue the strengthening of the comprehensive initiatives on education in favour of ethnic minorities, women and children (Turkmenistan);**
- 137.97 **Continue gender-mainstreaming policies with a special focus on women in vulnerable situations and those residing in remote regions (Armenia);**
- 137.98 **Continue upholding a high level of representation of women in positions of political power and leadership (Ukraine);**
- 137.99 **Continue its efforts to reduce the gender pay gap (Latvia);**
- 137.100 **Continue promoting women's equal participation in the economic sector and eliminating the gender pay gap (Bangladesh);**
- 137.101 **Continue its efforts to promote gender equality, including by educating the society on gender stereotypes (Latvia);**
- 137.102 **Combat violence against women and children (China);**
- 137.103 **Ensure effective investigations and prosecutions in relation to crimes of sexual violence (Syrian Arab Republic);**
- 137.104 **Pursue efforts to prevent violence against women, including domestic violence, support gender equality, empower women and enhance their participation (Tunisia);**
- 137.105 **Establish follow-up mechanisms and facilitate the work done by civil society in reducing cases of domestic violence (Sweden);**
- 137.106 **Take further measures to tackle the issue of violence against women, including domestic violence, by strengthening overall mechanisms to enforce existing measures to safeguard victims (Japan);**
- 137.107 **Redouble efforts to combat sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls by criminalizing marital rape, thoroughly investigating and prosecuting acts of violence against women and girls and issuing guidelines for, and provide training to, the authorities responsible for handling cases of domestic violence across the country (Canada);**
- 137.108 **Further strengthen measures to prevent gender-based violence, including domestic violence, and ensure the accessibility of support services for victims (Philippines);**
- 137.109 **Continue to strengthen policies to combat gender-based discrimination and violence, including domestic violence, by ensuring the effective implementation of existing instruments (France);**
- 137.110 **Continue its work in promoting the rights of the child, in particular regarding children in vulnerable situations (Greece);**
- 137.111 **Carry out the necessary efforts to protect children from all forms of violence, exploitation and trafficking (Chile);**
- 137.112 **Develop robust procedures to ensure that hate speech and hate crimes on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religious affiliation, disability or ethnic identity are thoroughly investigated (Canada);**

- 137.113 **Implement sustainable policies and measures aimed at employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market (Estonia);**
- 137.114 **Continue with the full integration of persons with disabilities, by promoting access to employment and improving the planning of public spaces and transport (France);**
- 137.115 **Implement human rights-based mental health policies aligned with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Portugal);**
- 137.116 **Continue its consistent efforts to ensure equal access to the labour market for all persons with disabilities, especially women (Bulgaria);**
- 137.117 **Continue to fully implement the Action Plan for the Promotion of Non-discrimination with clear strategic goals, specific measures and adequate financing (Indonesia);**
- 137.118 **Continue to enhance the legal framework for the protection of the rights of persons in vulnerable situations, including those belonging to ethnic minorities (Italy);**
- 137.119 **Pursue the efforts aiming at ensuring the social inclusion of and access to basic services for national minorities (Lebanon);**
- 137.120 **Adopt the law on national minorities (Croatia);**
- 137.121 **Adopt a comprehensive legislative framework for the protection of the rights of national minorities, as recommended by the Council of Europe (Belarus);**
- 137.122 **Accelerate the drafting and adoption of a comprehensive law on national minorities (Albania);**
- 137.123 **Adopt a comprehensive law on national minorities (Montenegro);**
- 137.124 **Accelerate efforts towards a comprehensive law on national minorities aimed at promoting their socioeconomic integration (Pakistan);**
- 137.125 **Finalize the legislative process of the bill on national minorities with a view to safeguarding the respect of language rights of minorities in accordance with Lithuania's international obligations (Poland);**
- 137.126 **Speed up the adoption of a relevant law on national minorities (Russian Federation);**
- 137.127 **Accelerate the drafting and adoption of a comprehensive law on national minorities and ensure that representatives of the different national minorities are consulted in the course of the drafting process (Serbia);**
- 137.128 **Continue its efforts to facilitate the access of the Roma population to adequate housing, including access to social housing and subsidies for home rental (Bangladesh);**
- 137.129 **Continue efforts to provide protection and integration of minorities, especially the Roma minority (Tunisia);**
- 137.130 **Continue the efforts aimed at Roma inclusion, including the support to Roma children and young people in their completion of compulsory education (Croatia);**
- 137.131 **Ensure the continuation of the action plan for Roma integration into Lithuanian society and the implementation of other programmes developed successfully to date for Roma social and educational integration (Romania);**
- 137.132 **Strengthen formal and informal Holocaust education to combat the rise of antisemitism (Israel);**

137.133 Develop a proposal for final restitution of private and heirless property seized during the Holocaust and promote a historically accurate Holocaust narrative (United States of America);

137.134 Strengthen Holocaust education to stop Holocaust distortion in the media and social networking platforms and vandalism on memorials (Slovakia);

137.135 Maintain the various measures for the protection of migrants' rights (Morocco);

137.136 Continue its efforts to evaluate and resolve the issue of irregular migration in accordance with international law and respecting human dignity (Turkey);

137.137 Continue progressing in strengthening the framework for the protection of migrants and refugees and improving the infrastructure and services related to their reception, accommodation and integration (Tunisia);

137.138 Continue its excellent efforts in developing the reception system for asylum seekers to ensure that accommodation capacity, support and services are sufficient to respond effectively to large numbers of unexpected arrivals, in particular with regard to the registration, referral to the competent authorities and prompt processing of applications for international protection (Luxembourg).

138. The following recommendations will be examined by Lithuania, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the fiftieth session of the Human Rights Council.

138.1 Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) of the International Labour Organization (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

138.2 Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Fiji);

138.3 Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Bangladesh) (Niger) (Philippines);

138.4 Ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Maldives);

138.5 Sign, ratify and implement the provisions of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, as previously recommended (Poland);

138.6 Consider ratifying the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Senegal);

138.7 Continue cooperating with the United Nations international human rights mechanisms (Egypt);

138.8 Ensure that its policies, legislation, regulations and enforcement measures effectively serve to prevent and address the heightened risk of business involvement in abuses in conflict situations, which include situations of foreign occupation (State of Palestine);

138.9 Continue its ongoing efforts aimed at successful implementation of the National Progress Plan for 2021–2030 to promote and protect human rights (Turkmenistan);

138.10 Adopt an open, merit-based process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

138.11 Establish a permanent national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up of human rights recommendations, and consider the possibility of receiving cooperation for this purpose (Paraguay);

- 138.12 Continue its efforts to eliminate discrimination against refugees and migrants and to protect women and children in particular against violence, exploitation and abuse (Algeria);
- 138.13 Consider adopting measures to eliminate hate crimes against national minorities through awareness campaigns and educational programmes (Timor-Leste);
- 138.14 Ensure respect for the human rights of victims of hate speech, including Jews, Roma, Poles, Russians, Muslims, dark-skinned people, Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals and transgender people, and provide them with adequate reparation (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 138.15 Combat effectively hate crimes against minorities, including Muslims and Roma (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 138.16 Effectively combat neo-Nazism discourse and Holocaust denial (China);
- 138.17 Combat the use of hate speech and stereotypes against minorities by the media and journalists (Cuba);
- 138.18 Develop a comprehensive strategy and action plan to eliminate all kinds of discrimination on the basis of racism, religion and gender identity, and ensure non-discriminatory treatment of all minority communities within its territory (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 138.19 Put a stop to human rights violations and violent actions stemming from racist, homophobic and transphobic hatred (Cuba);
- 138.20 Effectively implement action plans and measures aimed at strengthening the social integration of national minorities and migrants, as well as socioeconomic equality of its people (Indonesia);
- 138.21 Conduct thorough investigations of hate crimes against LGBTQI+ persons, Roma, refugees, Jews and members of other vulnerable communities; repeal the law on the protection of minors from negative public information, which discriminates against LGBTQI+ persons; and ensure equal protection of the law and consistent enforcement of anti-discrimination laws for all persons, including persons with disabilities (United States of America);
- 138.22 Continue adopting measures to respect the rights of LGBTQI+ people, including within the fight against all types of discrimination, and regarding the recognition of civil rights, such as equal marriage (Argentina);
- 138.23 Take effective measures to eradicate intolerance towards, and prevailing prejudices and discrimination against, vulnerable groups, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Cuba);
- 138.24 Review the provisions in the Law on the Protection of Minors against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information which limit the dissemination of information about various family and personal relations in order to strengthen the protection of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Czechia);
- 138.25 Eliminate discrimination against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community, including by amending the Law on Equal Treatment to also prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity, and by adopting legislation recognizing registered same-sex partnerships (Denmark);
- 138.26 Revise the law on the protection of minors to ensure it is not applied to censor LGBTI+-related public information (Iceland);
- 138.27 Develop and adopt a new national human rights plan that addresses discrimination based on sexual orientation, which is a serious issue in the country (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

- 138.28 **Adopt gender identity legislation that protects, respects and recognizes transgender people, and facilitates the change of name and identity on personal documents (Mexico);**
- 138.29 **Adopt a national strategy to intensify efforts to eliminate discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in order to combat intolerance, stereotypes and prejudice (Liechtenstein);**
- 138.30 **Intensify efforts to eliminate discrimination against people based on their sexual orientation or gender identity (Chile);**
- 138.31 **Take necessary measures to end discrimination and violence on the basis of gender identity, and in doing so, include gender identity as a criterion for discrimination in domestic legislation (Sweden);**
- 138.32 **Strengthen efforts to establish and effectively implement a comprehensive strategy on addressing discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity with specific and measurable progress indicators (Fiji);**
- 138.33 **Ensure the participation of women, children, persons with disabilities and local communities when developing and implementing climate change and disaster risk reduction frameworks (Fiji);**
- 138.34 **Conduct a public and transparent investigation into Lithuania's participation in the Central Intelligence Agency's secret detention programme, publish the results of the investigation and the involvement of the Lithuanian authorities, and ensure compensation for victims of extrajudicial detentions (Belarus);**
- 138.35 **Investigate allegations of torture or other ill-treatment of detainees in compliance with international human rights standards within the framework of the secret detention programmes, so-called counter-terrorism operations, in the United States (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 138.36 **Make public the truth about the establishment of secret prisons, arbitrary detention and torture by foreign intelligence agencies, and hold relevant personnel accountable (China);**
- 138.37 **Establish a specific timeline to ensure adequate reparation for violations and crimes committed in detention facilities on Lithuanian territory (Syrian Arab Republic);**
- 138.38 **Strengthen efforts to ensure the protection of all persons against sexual violence, regardless of age or gender, through possible legislative reform and establishing effective and safe avenues for reporting abuse (Australia);**
- 138.39 **Step up efforts in conducting gender sensitivity training for duty bearers in handling cases of trafficking in persons (Philippines);**
- 138.40 **Take concrete steps to address all forms of slavery, including those related to forced labour (Syrian Arab Republic);**
- 138.41 **Address deficiencies in identifying child victims of human trafficking to ensure effective means of support and protection for them (Syrian Arab Republic);**
- 138.42 **Take necessary steps to implement legislative guarantees for the protection of children from all forms of violence, exploitation and trafficking (Slovakia);**
- 138.43 **End the alarming increase in victims of trafficking for sexual and labour exploitation, forced labour and the widespread pornography in the country (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

- 138.44 **Allocate sufficient resources and intensify efforts to ensure successful implementation of projects and development of social services to benefit the people of Lithuania (United Republic of Tanzania);**
- 138.45 **Continue efforts to combat poverty by strengthening the prevention policy (Morocco);**
- 138.46 **Consider the legalization of abortion in cases of rape, incest, threats to life or health of the pregnant woman or serious fetal malformations, and move towards its decriminalization in all other cases, providing women access to safe abortion services (Argentina);**
- 138.47 **Decriminalize abortion and ensure the right to universal and safe access to sexual and reproductive health services (Iceland);**
- 138.48 **Redouble efforts to increase the representation of women in political and public life (Chile);**
- 138.49 **Continue measures to enhance the representation of women in political life (Nepal);**
- 138.50 **Strengthen efforts to increase the representation of women, in particular women belonging to minority groups and women with disabilities, in political and public life (Czechia);**
- 138.51 **Adopt temporary special measures to increase the participation of women, in particular rural women, women belonging to ethnic minority groups and women with disabilities, in political and public life (Afghanistan);**
- 138.52 **Implement concrete measures to combat gender stereotyping and consider further measures to better integrate women from minority backgrounds into the labour market (Republic of Korea);**
- 138.53 **End the gender pay gap, which is the highest in Europe (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 138.54 **Establish mechanisms and provide support programmes with alternative income-generating opportunities for women who wish to leave prostitution (Paraguay);**
- 138.55 **Take concrete steps to combat gender stereotyping regarding the roles of women and men in the family and in society and ensure that laws and policies do not contribute to entrenching these (Bahamas);**
- 138.56 **Adopt new domestic law measures such as the explicit criminalization of rape within marriage and the elimination of conciliatory mediation in the case of victims of gender-based and domestic violence (Spain);**
- 138.57 **Criminalize rape and sexual abuse within marriage in legislation, and strengthen specialized mechanisms to protect survivors of domestic violence (Mexico);**
- 138.58 **Ensure the protection of refugees and migrants in accordance with international standards, including stopping the illegal practice of summary violent pushbacks, conduct a public inquiry into all such cases and ensure that those responsible are prosecuted (Belarus);**
- 138.59 **Provide effective remedies and means of protection for victims of domestic violence (Malaysia);**
- 138.60 **Pursue efforts to combat gender-based violence by strengthening the legal framework for the protection of women against violence and increasing funding to special assistance centres (Marshall Islands);**
- 138.61 **Promote legislation to strengthen the legal framework for the protection of women against violence, notably by criminalizing domestic abuse and eliminating the use of conciliatory mediation for victims of domestic violence (Paraguay);**

138.62 Increase awareness among the general public regarding gender-based violence, including domestic violence, and ensure that all competent authorities have the appropriate training and necessary capacity to investigate, prosecute and penalize this type of violence (Belgium);

138.63 Impose protective measures against domestic violence, which significantly increased during the COVID-19 pandemic period, and provide efficient support to victims of such crimes (Islamic Republic of Iran);

138.64 Take further measures to address domestic violence by ensuring thorough and prompt investigation as well as stricter punishment for perpetrators (Malaysia);

138.65 Continue to effectively address domestic violence, including by thoroughly investigating cases of domestic violence and ensuring victims' access to effective remedies (Republic of Korea);

138.66 Establish an appropriate and effective mechanism to prevent violence against women (Senegal);

138.67 Continue developing more effective mechanisms for preventing violence against women and children as well as upgrade efficiency regarding access to sexual and reproductive health services (Slovenia);

138.68 Intensify efforts to complete the reform of the childcare system, increasing investment in social services to prevent unnecessary family separations, and providing quality alternative care options, prioritizing family-based solutions (Uruguay);

138.69 Increase the capacities and funding of the national system for the protection of the rights of the child (Czechia);

138.70 Adopt measures to regularly monitor the conditions and treatment of children in institutional settings and protect them from all forms of violence, exploitation and trafficking (Paraguay);

138.71 Continue its efforts to uphold protection of the rights of the child and of persons with disabilities (Poland);

138.72 Monitor the process of limiting the legal capacity of persons with disabilities to ensure that it is strictly necessary and is imposed in accordance with the relevant legal provisions and due guarantees (Spain);

138.73 Strengthen the development of various policies to ensure the full enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities (Turkmenistan);

138.74 Take effective measures to eliminate discrimination based on language in the field of education and employment (Russian Federation);

138.75 Operationalize the national Action Plan for the Promotion of Non-discrimination by dedicating adequate funding and establishing apprehensible strategic goals, and effective measures (Marshall Islands);

138.76 Strengthen measures to prevent intolerance and prejudice against vulnerable contingents and minority groups, including Roma, Jews and migrants (Uzbekistan);

138.77 Put an end to intimidation of, and threats and harassment against, Roma and national minorities (Cuba);

138.78 Reiterate the need to modify legislation to guarantee the full legal, social and cultural integration of the Russophone minority in Lithuania, in particular the reform of the regulations for the attribution of nationality, and therefore European citizenship, as well as the legal and educational linguistic framework, in accordance with the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages of 1992 (Spain);

- 138.79 Reconsider the period of detention of immigrants, which reaches 18 months, taking into account the use of alternatives to detention (Jordan);
- 138.80 Strengthen coordination with international organizations to cease arbitrary detentions of migrants at the border and improve the reception of foreigners in accordance with treaty law and the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (Mexico);
- 138.81 Ensure that migrants, refugees and asylum seekers can access education and health services without discrimination, and take measures to facilitate the regularization of migrants residing with their children, taking into account the best interests of the child (Portugal);
- 138.82 Ensure that all applications for international protection are promptly received and registered, and referred to the asylum authority, and that it effectively investigates all allegations of denials of entry and access to asylum procedures for persons seeking international protection (Afghanistan);
- 138.83 Ensure that the rights of migrants and asylum seekers are respected, so that there are no pushbacks at the border and that applications are processed properly (Argentina);
- 138.84 Ensure implementation of the principle of non-refoulement, and ensure that all applications for international protection are promptly received and registered (Ireland);
- 138.85 Improve asylum and refugee reception procedures, to ensure an effective humanitarian response in dealing with migrants and asylum seekers (Iraq);
- 138.86 Revise its amendments to asylum legislation and regulations to ensure compliance with its international obligations (Canada);
- 138.87 Establish a formal statelessness identification and determination procedure, in accordance with human rights obligations and standards, and encourage the revision of the nationality law so that stateless children born in the State may have the right to acquire Lithuanian nationality (Uruguay);
- 138.88 Join efforts to harmonize national legislation on citizenship with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Paraguay).
139. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Lithuania and have been noted by Lithuania:
- 139.1 Stop supporting unilateral coercive measures and sanctions as contrary to international law and the Charter of the United Nations (Belarus);
- 139.2 Stop providing financial and other support to extremist elements recognized as such in Belarus and other States (Belarus);
- 139.3 Stop the practice of initiating criminal cases for political reasons and cancel earlier illegal sentences (Russian Federation);
- 139.4 Stop the practice of rewriting history and its free interpretation in textbooks for secondary and higher schools (Russian Federation);
- 139.5 Cancel the previously introduced changes to the national legislation which significantly toughen the position of asylum seekers, as well as conduct an investigation into all cases of gross violation of the rights of migrants on the Belarusian-Lithuanian border mentioned in the media in 2021 (Russian Federation);
- 139.6 Stop violating the rights of refugees and migrants (China).
140. Lithuania could not support the recommendations contained in paragraphs 139.1, 139.2, 139.3, 139.4, 139.5, 139.6 as it considers them to be impertinent to the content of the review and Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21.

141. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Lithuania was headed by Ms. Jurga Greičienė, Vice Minister, Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania, and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Mr. Darius Staniulis, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Lithuania to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva (Deputy Head of Delegation);
 - Ms. Jūratė Baublienė, Advisor, Strategic Support and International Cooperation Group, Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania;
 - Ms. Simona Bieliūnė, Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania;
 - Mr. Darius Domarkas, Head, Public Security Policy Group, Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Lithuania;
 - Ms. Eglė Kiuraitė, Chief Officer, Relations to National Communities Department, Department of National Minorities under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania;
 - Mr. Arūnas Paulauskas, Deputy Police Commissioner General, Police Department under the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Lithuania;
 - Mr. Ramūnas Skaudžius, Vice Minister, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania;
 - Ms. Rasa Svetikaitė – Justice and Intellectual Property Special Attaché, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Lithuania to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva;
 - Ms. Kristina Vyšniauskaitė – Radinskienė, Acting Head, Human Rights Division, Department of United Nations, International Organizations and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania;
 - Mr. Tautvydas Žėkas, Senior Advisor, Criminal Justice Group, Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania;
 - Mr. Darius Žilys, Head, International Cooperation and Human Rights Policy Group, Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania.
-