



Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Summary record of the 2771st meeting

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Wednesday, 24 January 2024, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Ms. Skelton

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Consideration of reports of States parties *(continued)*

Combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Lithuania (continued)
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1. *At the invitation of the Chair, the delegation of Lithuania joined the meeting.*
2. **A representative of Lithuania** said that, according to the Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child, a permanent unit of the Ministry of Social Security and Labour was responsible for shaping policy on the protection of the rights of the child, while the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service, part of the same Ministry, was responsible for implementation at the international, national and municipal levels. Other State ministries, as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), municipalities and the Child Welfare Council had additional functions.
3. **A representative of Lithuania** said that incarcerated mothers had the right to raise children aged under 3 years of age in special accommodation within or outside the prison. The age could be extended to 7 if the extension was in the child's best interest. In 2023, 11 mothers had been raising their children in such conditions, including 5 in accommodation within the prison, and 6 outside. Access to children's health-care services depended on the prison regime and the location – in the prison or not – of the child's accommodation. All mothers and children were guaranteed access to secondary and tertiary care. Family doctors provided primary health care in the prisons for children living on the premises; mothers could accompany their children while the services were provided. Mothers and children could be sent to general health-care institutions outside prison if the family doctor deemed it necessary.
4. **A representative of Lithuania** said that children living with their imprisoned mothers received education within the prison walls, including at the preschool level. When living in external accommodation, children had access to all types of education, including preschool.
5. **A representative of Lithuania** said that there were two national hotlines for children: one exclusively for children's use and another for information on the rights of the child. The first had been established in 1997 to provide emotional support to children about issues such as personal relationships and bullying. There was a line for it in the national budget, and it was well known to the public. The second had been established in 2022 to provide information to the general public about the rights of the child. For example, callers could ask whether a certain act was a violation of those rights. Since the establishment of the second line, an awareness-raising campaign had been conducted to clarify the difference between the two; information about the two hotlines was provided on national television and radio and in children's electronic school journals. The newer line offered advice in Lithuanian, Russian and English. Callers were transferred to the correct line if they had called the incorrect one.
6. **Ms. Augienė** (Lithuania) said that the popularity of the child rights line demonstrated the public's interest in the protection of the rights of the child. The monitoring of calls made it possible to identify specific concerns expressed by the public.
7. **A representative of Lithuania** said that the significant increase in funding for educational assistance specialists between 2019 and 2024 had resulted in an increase of nearly 20 per cent in the number of those specialists. The number of teaching assistants in schools and kindergartens had tripled in the last six years, and 10 times more students had enrolled in special education training in 2023 than in 2019. The Government was putting in place an educational framework – universal design for learning – that guided the development of flexible learning environments in the country's schools; that topic was covered in relevant courses at Lithuanian universities. Regional centres had been established to educate teachers in best practice when working with children with special educational needs. The Government had provided in-depth special education training for teachers; the programmes offered in 2023 had attracted nearly 2,000 participants.
8. A pilot project begun in September 2023 had tested more than 100 inclusive classrooms in which the students and teachers were helped by additional teaching assistants. The Government would expand the project to the rest of the country if the results of the

project proved conclusive. Three quarters of schools were partially suited to the needs of children with disabilities.

9. **Ms. Augienė** (Lithuania) said that personal assistants were assigned to children with disabilities. Children in preschool had access to nursing services.

10. **A representative of Lithuania** said that the number of psychiatrists available for children and adolescents until 2032 was in line with overall trends in the European Union. In view of the predicted shortage of those psychiatrists, 10 psychiatry residency positions a year were being filled. There were challenges, including suboptimal working conditions, to retaining psychiatrists.

11. Funds had been set aside to increase the salaries of public sector psychologists; as a result, the number of those specialists had increased by around 60 per cent. In 2022, nearly 6,000 people, including children aged 11 to 17, had benefited from low-threshold group and individual services. For 2024, an additional €1.5 million had been allocated to employ psychologists and other appropriately trained staff in public health bureaux in all municipalities.

12. Starting in 2027, paediatricians would be able to join family doctor teams. In 2022, there had been a paediatrician shortage of nearly 10 per cent, so the Government had decided to prioritize paediatrics qualifications in residency placements and increase the number of places for paediatrics students.

13. **A representative of Lithuania** said that children's medicines and medical devices that were on the relevant State-approved list could be fully reimbursed. Items not on the list were available either for a minimal price or at no charge. Family outlays for children's health care, including vaccinations, were also reimbursed. Sometimes reimbursements were not received; the Government was working to improve the situation.

14. The amounts allocated to compulsory health insurance in 2024 were projected to be nearly 15 per cent larger in 2024 than in 2023; 20 per cent of the total would be set aside for the purchase of medication. There was also a centralized medicine acquisition mechanism and an additional system for rare medicines and emergency supplies. The Government was taking measures to address challenges faced by patients requiring rare medicines.

15. Under a national vaccination programme that had been running since 1992, children were vaccinated against 14 infectious diseases. The programme had achieved excellent results in its early years and, by 2009, vaccination coverage among some age groups had stood at over 90 per cent. Unfortunately, as the prevalence of infectious disease had decreased, people had started to question the need to vaccinate their children. That scepticism had been further fuelled by the spread of misinformation during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Nevertheless, according to the results of research by a group of independent experts in 2022, the general public still attached great importance to the advice they received from health-care professionals on vaccination. The group had consequently recommended that, instead of making vaccination compulsory, the Government should promote the benefits of vaccination and let parents choose whether or not to vaccinate their children. To that end, the Government had discussed best practices with other countries in the European Union where vaccination rates had decreased since the pandemic.

16. **A representative of Lithuania** said that, as a result of measures taken within the framework of a plan to counter the pandemic's adverse long-term effects on mental health, provision of mental health services had returned to pre-pandemic levels. Since 2022, the number of consultations held by child psychiatrists had increased by approximately 10 per cent on an annual basis. Annual spending on children's mental health services was 35 per cent higher than it had been before the pandemic, while spending on psychiatric inpatient services had increased by 124 per cent. In 2024, nearly 6,000 children were expected to benefit from psychological well-being and mental health promotion services delivered at public health offices. A working group composed of social partners and public officials was drafting a series of proposals to expand the provision of mental health services for children and teenagers.

17. The National Plan on Suicide Prevention, originally adopted in 2020, had been substantially updated in 2023. The activities set out under the revised Plan, which were partly

funded by the European Union, included strengthening coordination at the municipal level and conducting research to determine the main reasons for suicide and self-harm. One of the goals of the Plan was to bring the national suicide rate into line with the European Union average by 2030. The Government had also set related objectives under proposed reforms of the mental health system, included reducing repeated hospitalizations for mental health issues and tackling the stigma attached to mental health conditions. It was currently in the process of drafting a national agenda for addiction, a strategic document that foresaw interdepartmental action intended to reduce the use and availability of psychoactive substances. The agenda was expected to be approved within the following two months.

18. **A representative of Lithuania** said that, on the recommendation of the Office of the Ombudsperson for Children's Rights, the Government had dropped its plans to lower the minimum age for criminal liability for a number of drug-related offences.

19. **A representative of Lithuania** said that schoolchildren were taught about psychoactive substances and the dangers of their use in life skills classes. Four prevention programmes concerning the use of such substances had been put in place at schools. Nine programmes designed to improve the well-being of students by enhancing social skills and emotional intelligence had also been launched. In addition, schools in three municipalities were piloting a set of measures formulated by the police, the Ministry of the Interior and other government agencies to reduce the use of psychoactive substances. If the pilot was successful, the project would be rolled out at other schools.

20. Sex education was covered in grades 1 to 10, including in the life skills programme. The Government had adopted a handbook on teaching sex education courses that had been drafted on the basis of methodological recommendations made by NGOs. Teachers were introduced to the handbook as part of their university preparation for delivering the new life skills course.

21. **Ms. Augienė** (Lithuania) said that the Government had drafted the handbook in partnership with education experts to ensure that teachers were able to speak appropriately about the development of sexuality.

22. **A representative of Lithuania** said that the State took measures to mitigate the impact of climate change on socially vulnerable people, including families with children. In that regard, the Government was planning to adopt a new plan for climate change to guarantee the right of everyone in Lithuania to a clean and safe environment. It also ensured that children were able to participate in public discussions relating to the challenge of climate change. In 2022, the Child Welfare Council had held a meeting on environmental issues with a view to exploring how children could contribute to a cleaner and safer environment. It had reached the conclusion that schools should organize more activities to educate students about the environment, responsible consumption and the efficient use of natural resources.

23. A review of the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, first adopted in 2015, was under way. Under the Plan, businesses were urged to assess the impact of their activities on local communities and the environment and act more responsibly.

24. **A representative of Lithuania** said that children participated in the implementation and monitoring of the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the Child Guarantee System through their representatives on the Child Welfare Council. At least four members of the Council, which also included representatives of different government departments, the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service and the Office of the Ombudsperson for Children's Rights, must be children. The Council received regular updates on the implementation of the National Action Plan in child-friendly formats.

25. **A representative of Lithuania** said that asylum-seeking children were never detained and that the law provided for the presumption of minority where there were reasonable doubts over a foreign national's age. A number of alternatives to detention had been adopted, including the obligation to report periodically to the migration authorities, the use of electronic tracking devices and the placement of foreign nationals in the care of another person residing in Lithuania. A series of special support measures, including for the provision of accommodation and schooling, had been put in place for asylum-seeking children. All

measures taken in respect of such children must be in their best interest, and all decisions concerning them must be made in collaboration with a children's rights specialist.

26. As soon as an unaccompanied minor was identified, the authorities notified partner NGOs and initiated the search for his or her family. In 2023, seven training courses on asylum-seeking children had been organized by national and international organizations. In 2023, there had been 28 cases involving unaccompanied minors.

27. **A representative of Lithuania** said that unaccompanied foreign minors had the right to accommodation, health care, social protection and legal aid. The State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service was notified as soon as an unaccompanied minor was identified. The Service then assessed the child's situation, including by consulting the child, if necessary with the help of an interpreter. Representatives of the Service attended all the interviews that public officials conducted with asylum-seeking children, whether unaccompanied or not, to ensure that their rights were respected. The factors considered in the assessments included what country the minors had arrived from, whom they had travelled with, what they had experienced in transit, whether they had been exposed to violence, whether they had been deprived of their liberty and whether they had been subjected to discrimination, social exclusion or any other form of ill-treatment.

28. **A representative of Lithuania** said that Ukrainian child refugees enjoyed all the same rights as Lithuanian children. For example, Ukrainian children with disabilities were offered access to personal assistance, technical assistive devices, accommodation suited to their needs and, where applicable, sign language interpretation services. Ukrainian children placed in foster care and their host families had access to all the social services and financial benefits provided within the framework of the national foster-care system.

29. **A representative of Lithuania** said that steps had been taken to ensure that judicial premises met the requirements of children, promote the training of specialist children's lawyers and encourage prosecutors and judges to specialize in juvenile justice. Under criminal legislation, child witnesses and victims were to be interviewed only once, and recent amendments had been introduced to increase the number of children eligible for free secondary legal aid. In addition to giving judges the opportunity to train in juvenile justice, the Government raised awareness among judicial officials of the importance of respecting the rights of the child during proceedings. To prevent secondary victimization, psychologists participated in interviews with children at the pretrial phase and during criminal, civil and administrative proceedings. The number of interviews attended by psychologists had risen by 30 per cent in the previous two years.

30. **A representative of Lithuania** said that, according to figures published by Eurostat, early leavers from education and training had accounted for less than 5 per cent of young people aged 18–24 in Lithuania in 2022. That was significantly lower than the European Union average of 9.6 per cent. Although 869 students had dropped out of their secondary establishments in 2023, the majority of them were Ukrainian nationals who had returned to their home country. There were 926 schools for ethnic minorities in Lithuania. Both Lithuanian and minority languages were used in the classroom at those schools.

31. Curricula for children in grades 1 to 10 included lessons on human rights. Civic education was taught as a stand-alone subject in grades 9 and 10 and covered issues related to children's rights, including the Convention.

32. In 2018, the Ministry of Education had approved the introduction of all-day schools. That initiative, which had been well received by parents, had improved children's academic achievement and emotional well-being. The Government was planning to increase funding for the development of school facilities and the expansion of services provided by all-day schools in the period to 2030. Around 70 per cent of children in Vilnius currently attended all-day schools.

33. The Law on Education provided for the inclusion of children on school councils, which made decisions on improvements to school activities and considered annual business plans. Legal documents submitted to school councils must be written in language that could be easily understood by child council members.

34. **Ms. Augienė** (Lithuania) said that, further to one legislative amendment, parents had the opportunity to take a day off work once a month for childcare purposes. In addition, some businesses had emulated a public sector initiative by establishing childcare facilities on their premises.

35. **A representative of Lithuania** said that a conference on business and human rights that had been held in 2023 had involved the participation of an expert from the United Nations Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises. A number of working groups on business and human rights, composed of representatives of civil society and the business community, had been established at the national level. One such working group had been set up in 2023 to draft the second national action plan on business and human rights, which would provide for the implementation of guidelines issued by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the United Nations. The Government was also seeking to encourage businesses to become more involved in their communities, ensure adequate working conditions for parents, including foster parents, and respect children's rights to a clean and healthy environment and protection from exploitation.

36. **A representative of Lithuania** said that all provisions of the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography relating to sexual offences against minors had been incorporated into Lithuanian law. The principle of universal jurisdiction for sexual offences against minors was enshrined in the Criminal Code, and domestic legislation on international treaties contained provisions on criminal liability for such offences. The statute of limitations for sexual offences against minors was the victim's twenty-fifth birthday; however, there were plans to increase that period to the victim's thirty-fifth birthday.

37. The provisions of the Optional Protocol concerning extradition were applicable in all cases in which perpetrators of sexual offences against minors were given sentences of at least 1 year's imprisonment. Since all convictions for such offences involved prison sentences of at least a year, it followed that the provisions on extradition were applicable to all cases of sexual offences committed against minors. Although sexual offences against minors were investigated by the police in the first instance, the Prosecutor General's Office was responsible for the administration of extradition proceedings.

38. Statistics on trafficking in persons covered a range of offences including prostitution and exploiting children by forcing them to steal. However, there had only been one or two reports of cases of trafficking for the purpose of prostitution in Lithuania, suggesting that it was a relatively minor phenomenon.

39. **Mr. Jaffé** said that he would like to know how reported cases of corporal punishment were investigated and what the typical judicial outcome of such investigations was. He also wished to know whether any judgments on corporal punishment had been handed down by civil or criminal courts. He would welcome clarification on the apparent removal of the reference to humiliation as a form of psychological punishment in the amended Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child. Lastly, he wondered whether there was much public discussion of how corporal punishment compared with other forms of discipline that were more compatible with the Convention.

40. **Mr. Gudbrandsson** said that he would like to know whether the State party had achieved its goal to close all remaining institutions housing children by the end of 2023. He was keen to know whether domestic legislation distinguished between the sharing of self-generated sexually explicit images of children by those children with their peers and the sharing of such images with adults as a consequence of grooming or coercion. In particular, he would like to know whether children sharing such images with their peers could be prosecuted by the authorities. He would like to know, too, whether children could be interviewed and, where necessary, cross-examined during the pretrial phase of court proceedings.

41. **Mr. Van Keirsbilck** (Country Task Force) said that he would appreciate a comment from the delegation on reports that – the State party's assertions to the contrary notwithstanding – migrant and asylum-seeking children were sometimes placed in detention

and that, since 2021, there had been an increase in the number of migrants deprived of liberty, including children migrating with their families.

42. As the Committee had received few communications from Lithuanians since the State party's ratification of the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure, he would like to hear about measures taken to inform the general public about the remedies available to them under that instrument. He would also welcome information on any cases of children born in the Syrian Arab Republic and taken to Lithuania, cases of international adoption in which the child wished to learn about his or her origins and cases of illegal intercountry adoption.

43. **Ms. Al Barwani** (Country Task Force) asked whether children who spoke minority languages and attended mainstream public schools were encouraged to use those languages at school and whether teachers at such schools were trained to help students continue learning those languages. She also asked whether the State party intended to endorse the Safe Schools Declaration.

44. **Ms. Aho** said that she would like to know whether the State party had done any research into the root causes of the abandonment of infants with a view to developing and implementing preventive strategies. In that connection, she would welcome further information about the outcomes of home visits to young mothers.

45. She also wished to know how the State party planned to raise awareness of the importance of vaccination and improve immunization rates. In addition, she wondered whether the authorities knew why people living with HIV in the country were not seeking treatment.

46. **Ms. Kiladze** said that she wished to know whether the potential benefits of, and threats posed by, artificial intelligence with respect to children's rights were taken into consideration by the State party in decisions concerning investment in information technology.

47. **Ms. Zara** said that she was keen to hear whether the State party had developed a policy on sexual and reproductive health for adolescents.

The meeting was suspended at 11.45 a.m. and resumed at 12.05 p.m.

48. **A representative of Lithuania** said that the reference to humiliation as a form of psychological punishment had been retained in the amended Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child.

49. **A representative of Lithuania** said that acts of physical, psychological and sexual violence against children and child neglect were prohibited under domestic law. Between 2021 and 2023, reports of physical violence had risen by 43 per cent as a consequence of increased reporting by witnesses, including child victims themselves, and reports of psychological violence had increased by 44 per cent. The Government was working to raise awareness of the characteristics of psychological violence by carrying out information campaigns. On receiving a report of potential violence committed against a child, the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service was obliged to notify the police within 24 hours.

50. **A representative of Lithuania** said that the police decided whether to launch a pretrial investigation on the basis of information from the Service. Such decisions must be confirmed by the Prosecutor General's Office before an investigation could be initiated. The number of pretrial investigations into violence against minors had remained stable in recent years. Around 500 cases of violence committed by adults against minors had been brought to trial in 2023. Penalties usually depended on the degree of physical harm caused. Perpetrators who had caused physical pain only could be fined or sentenced to up to 3 years' imprisonment, whereas those who had caused more serious physical harm could be given prison sentences of 10 years or more.

51. **Ms. Augienė** (Lithuania) said that there had been substantial public discussion of corporal punishment in Lithuania. Since the adoption of the amended Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child, there was a more comprehensive public understanding of the concepts of humiliation and violation of a child's dignity.

52. The Government had begun closing larger institutions and restructuring the care system around smaller, community-based institutions housing no more than eight children. Comprehensive support was provided to families so that children could remain in the family home where possible. While efforts were being made to reduce the number of institutions licensed to provide care to children, that process was ongoing, and five such institutions continued to accommodate a number of children.

53. **A representative of Lithuania** said that criminal liability was always incurred when persons over the age of 16 shared pornographic images of children via the Internet. Criminal liability would not necessarily arise when minors under that age shared sexually explicit images of themselves with each other but did not circulate them to the public at large. The police assessed each case individually and examined all reports of pornographic material involving children that was posted on the Internet in Lithuania, even though only 10 per cent of such material was created in the country.

54. **A representative of Lithuania** said that asylum-seeking minors were not placed in detention. Since 2021, a neighbouring country had been pushing irregular migrants over the border into Lithuania. Even in that case, however, unaccompanied minors were not detained. All asylum-seeking minors were accommodated in a special centre where they had freedom of movement. They were allowed to work or attend school. An asylum-seeking family, which might well include minors, could be detained if it was deemed to pose a security risk. As a matter of principle, members of a family were not separated. A court alone had the power to decide whether a family could be detained, and all alternatives to detention were considered. There were no plans to amend the legal provisions prohibiting the detention of asylum-seeking minors.

55. **A representative of Lithuania** said that other measures would be tried before a minor was imprisoned. For example, he or she could be required to attend social or psychological counselling or a day centre, to continue his or her education at the same or a different school, to take part in sporting or creative activities, to undergo therapy for drug or gambling addiction, to participate in mediation processes or to perform community service. Only when those measures failed would the child be referred to a socialization centre. Those centres were special schools where children were provided with additional assistance in a structured environment with a view to socializing them and helping them acquire social skills.

56. **A representative of Lithuania** said that a determined effort was made to protect juvenile offenders from the harmful secondary effects of imprisonment. The Ministry of Justice was therefore committed to a policy of trying to alter the lifestyle of young offenders so that they no longer kept bad company or engaged in crime. Those measures were clearly effective, as the number of minors in prison was gradually dropping.

57. **A representative of Lithuania** said that adoption was possible only in the best interests of the child. If the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service received any information that caused it to have reasonable doubts about the lawfulness of an adoption, it would contact the relevant law enforcement agencies. However, no cases of illegal adoption had been recorded in Lithuania.

58. Measures had been taken to enable adopted children to learn about their original family and consult their case files, subject to the agreement of a court and their adoptive parents if they were under 14. That course of action had been taken in a case involving a Lithuanian child adopted by a Swedish couple. International adoptions tended to concern older children, most of whom knew who their biological relatives were and often kept in contact with them.

59. **Ms. Augienė** (Lithuania) said that an adoptive family was required by law to report to the Lithuanian authorities on the child's progress for the first three years of his or her life with his or her adoptive family. After that time, reporting was voluntary. In practice, adoptive families proved very willing to maintain contact with the biological family.

60. **A representative of Lithuania** said that the State funded schools where the language of instruction was that of an ethnic minority. If children attended a school where the language of instruction was not their mother tongue, they would be allowed to study that language if they so requested.

61. **A representative of Lithuania** said that the Government agreed with the essence of the Safe Schools Declaration. A dialogue was under way among the institutions concerned with a view to endorsing the Declaration. Even though Lithuania had not yet endorsed it, schools, as civilian objects, were protected by international humanitarian law. The Government was determined to comply with commitments that would flow from the Declaration in the event of armed conflict.

62. **A representative of Lithuania** said that the Ministry of Social Security and Labour constantly analysed the information that it received from the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service about abandoned babies or children who had been separated from their families. When violations of children's rights were brought to its attention, it conducted an internal investigation to ascertain the reasons for those violations and to make recommendations to specialists and the relevant services.

63. **A representative of Lithuania** said that the prophylactic vaccination programme was updated every five years. The 2024–2029 programme was currently being drawn up. Funding was provided to digitize records and increase coverage. Joint action was being taken with other States members of the European Union to obtain vaccines. All Lithuanian health-care specialists were trained to give vaccinations.

64. **A representative of Lithuania** said that drug users could be rapidly tested for HIV/AIDS in drug consumption rooms. Regular users were encouraged to seek treatment. The State provided funding for the rooms and their operations, including HIV/AIDS testing. A generously funded initiative involving the appointment of what were known as mental health ambassadors sought to combat the stigma associated with drug-related mental health conditions. The number of new HIV infections had dropped from 9.3 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2017 to 4.3 in 2021.

65. **A representative of Lithuania** said that his country would implement the law on artificial intelligence that was being drafted by the European Union to ensure compliance with basic safety standards. The advantages and disadvantages of artificial intelligence would probably be covered in life skills classes. Law enforcement agencies were already starting to use artificial intelligence to help protect children from the dangers of the Internet.

66. **A representative of Lithuania**, noting that artificial intelligence was a challenge, said that the Ministry of Education coordinated efforts to regulate the use of artificial intelligence in schools and had issued recommendations for teachers on using it in the classroom. Seminars on the subject were organized for teachers to enable them to recognize when pupils had used artificial intelligence. The Ministry, which was constantly consulting experts, was examining the possibility of drafting legislation on the safe and responsible use of artificial intelligence in the education sector.

67. In grade 7, the topics covered in sex education were love, sexual attraction, caring relationships, health care and contraception. The sex education programme was always age-appropriate.

68. **A representative of Lithuania** said that information about the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure had been disseminated on the website of the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, including in child-friendly language.

69. **A representative of Lithuania** said that pretrial questioning of children normally took place in child interview rooms at police stations. In the case of serious crimes, the minor could be questioned in court. Prosecutors, judges, the police officers investigating the case, psychologists, a children's rights protection specialist and the minor's representative were all present when minors were interviewed, provided that there was no likelihood that the representative might influence the course of the interview. When a sexual crime had been committed, minors could also be interviewed at the Sexual Abuse Assistance Centre at the Užuošė foster home, where they received psychological support. The Centre had forensic examination facilities.

70. **Mr. Pedrera Reyna** (Coordinator, Country Task Force) said that he trusted that the dialogue had been useful. He hoped that the Committee's recommendations would be widely disseminated in a format accessible to children and others.

71. **Ms. Augienė** (Lithuania) said that the constructive dialogue had been a good opportunity to learn of ways to guarantee compliance with the highest standards of protection of the rights of the child. While a lack of time had made it impossible to respond to all the questions that had been put, the delegation had taken due note of the Committee's concerns. It welcomed the reports from civil society, which would inform future efforts to ensure fulfilment of the country's international obligations with respect to the rights of the child.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.