

**Statement by Mr. Andrius Krivas
Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania
High-level policy segment
"Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies in the UNECE region"**

Your excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

- The 2030 Agenda is universal, integrated and indivisible. It provides opportunities to change paths of development on national, regional and global levels. We should use this chance and take a step further in creating more sustainable and resilient societies.
- Lithuania has taken firm and decisive steps towards implementing the SDGs. We have adopted an ambitious Plan which includes such long term social and economic development actions as the revision of social allowances and pensions, development of financial incentives and services for young families and families with small children, improvement of access to medical care services, improvement of taxation system aiming to facilitate growth.
- In addition, last year Lithuania has adopted a legislative package called “A New social model”, which establishes modernized regulations of industrial relations, social security and the pension system.
- We are deeply convinced of the major contribution of gender equality promotion in all aspects of life to the significantly more sustainable development of our societies. For example, women entrepreneurs account for 60 per cent of businesses in rural areas of Lithuania, thus, actively contributing to prosperity and well-being of local communities. Women across the globe own almost 10 million small and medium-sized enterprises – and it is exactly those enterprises that contribute to 80% of the world’s employment! Yet almost 150 countries have laws impeding women’s economic opportunities and holding back their full entrepreneurial potential. Therefore, for the prosperity and growth of our societies we must redouble our efforts to close this gender gap by creating a positive business environment and bringing women more fully into the economic mainstream. In this context we would like to

highly commend the Geneva Gender Champions initiative and multiple actions of Geneva's international community in this regard.

- Lithuania is strongly committed to the implementation of Paris Agreement and is ready to take long-term actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Our climate change mitigation policy is based on sustainable development of energy from renewable sources and energy efficiency. Implementation of the Programme on old multi-apartment buildings modernization enables us to increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse emissions, at the same time creates additional jobs and contributes to our economy.
- Lithuania seeks to enhance its role as a reliable and responsible donor country and contributes to the implementation of Agenda 2030 in the region and globally. Lithuania has adopted an Inter-Governmental Development Cooperation Action Plan. It defines development cooperation policy guidelines and implementing measures and aims to increase Lithuania's official development assistance in line with international commitments. In 2017, Lithuania carried out development cooperation reform, partly transferring project management functions to the Central Project Management Agency with the objective gradually to develop it into full-fledged Lithuanian Development Cooperation Agency. That serves as an evidence of Lithuania's commitment to aid effectiveness and quality of aid.
- These few examples show the ways to create sustainable and resilient societies both in Lithuania and partner countries. Ambitious national objectives and political will, engagement of civil society, private sector, together with joint efforts of the international community are the necessary components to reach these aims.

Thank you.