



**LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS NUOLATINĖ MISIJA JUNGTINĖSE TAUTOSE
PERMANENT MISSION OF LITHUANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Lithuania to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the 60th Session of the United Nations General Assembly and with reference to its Note No: 06/141 dated 17 March, 2006 on its candidature to the Human Rights Council, has the honour to present herewith the voluntary pledges and commitments of the Republic of Lithuania in accordance with General Assembly Resolution A/RES/60/251 of 15 March 2006.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Lithuania to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the President of the 60th Session of the United Nations General Assembly the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 10 April 2006

H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson
President of the 60th Session of the
United Nations General Assembly
New York



**Voluntary pledges and commitments of
Lithuania
in accordance with resolution A/RES/60/251**

The Government of Lithuania has the honour to request support for the candidature of the Republic of Lithuania as a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council at the elections which will be held on May 9, 2006. Lithuania was the candidate for election to Commission on Human Rights, ensuring broad support of ECOSOC members.

We consider that being a member of this new human rights body is both a realization of a right to participate in the exercise of world affairs and a duty that entails sharing responsibility of the activities performed by the UN bodies. Lithuania firmly believes that it will be able to contribute actively and constructively to the implementation of the tasks of the Council.

In the United Nations system Lithuania is committed to undertake the following:

- Strongly support universal respect of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, including right to development, recognizing their interrelations.
- Emphasises the importance of global improvement of human rights.
- Maintain cooperative approach when dealing with problematic human rights situations, duly considering technical assistance, advisory services and capacity-building tools as means for achieving improvement of any such situation.
- Seek that the Human Rights Council starts its work effectively and efficiently. The Council may change our perception of international system of human right protection and we want to ensure that this will be change that all can benefit from. Especially, we are interested to see the tangible improvements on the ground.
- Maintain the open invitation to the special procedures and engage in as wide dialogue with them as they will see as necessary. We will engage with them in an open manner and provide all the assistance that they will require.
- Support, including by providing financial means, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and her office both in the strengthening the capacity and in undertaking other activities. Lithuania also commits closely cooperate with the High Commissioner.
- Report to the treaty bodies in a way that is provided for in the relevant treaties and the monitoring bodies' guidelines. Lithuania strongly believes activities of the treaty bodies greatly contribute to making these international obligations as a living instrument, thus it will not only cooperate with them itself but also will encourage other states to act in this way. We will engage in the reforms undertaken and will seek that the reporting system becomes even more efficient.

In other international fora Lithuania commits to the following:

- Cooperate closely with the universal and regional organizations, member of which Lithuania is and contribute to the increase of their role in defending and promoting human rights.

- Participate in the elaboration of new standards and ways of their effective implementation. We believe that both - the standard setting and implementation functions - are to be duly taken care of either at all levels.
- More development assistance directed at improvement of human rights situation will be considered.
- React to the concerns of non-governmental organizations on international human rights problems.

On the national level Lithuania undertakes the following:

- Further respect and implement international obligations, both multilateral and bilateral, giving particular attention to opinions of the treaty bodies.
- Continue implement activities improving national situation of human rights. We undertake to give particular attention to the welfare of children, fight against trafficking of human beings and assisting the victims of this criminal activity, ensure equal opportunities of women and men, improving conditions in the penitentiary, and to address issues of corruption.
- Consider allowing more treaty bodies receive and consider individual complaints.
- Work closely with non-governmental organizations responding to their opinions regarding human rights.

The strength of candidature of the Republic of Lithuania lies in extensive experience in profound reform and developing national human rights protection system. The path that Lithuania went through was not without its difficulties. Overcoming them has provided experience that will be of great use in finding ways to devise better assistance to those who are envisaging similar activities. Also, developing and implementing of the National Human Rights Action Plan as part of the UN HURIST programme has considerably increased our expertise. We believe that our experience in this area will be valuable to other countries and to the Council itself.

Previously Lithuania did not an opportunity to serve as a member of the Commission on Human Rights and by applying for the membership or the Council we consider that being a member is both a realization of a right to participate in the exercise of world affairs and a duty that entails sharing responsibility of the activities performed by the UN bodies. Lithuania is a State party to the six basic UN human rights conventions as well as other international instruments. We firmly believe that it will be able to contribute actively and constructively to the implementation of the tasks of the Council and also to show an example of a State respecting the highest human rights standards.

Candidature to the Council is regarded by Lithuania both as a privilege and as a serious task. With its experience and expertise of the Republic of Lithuania will undertake all efforts for the effective and efficient Council.