

**Statement of Ms Justina Jakštienė, the Vice-Minister of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania for the General Debate
17th Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
11-13 June 2024**

*[Maximum speaking time of **3 minutes** for each State Party]*

[353-362 words – approx. 3 minutes]

Mr. President,

Distinguished delegates,

Lithuania remains firmly committed to advancing the rights of persons with disabilities, aligned with the **EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.

To meet **the Sustainable Development Goals**, we foster social inclusion and independence for persons with disabilities. This year we started implementing **disability policy reform**. It is focused on **improving disability assessment, targeted support, enhanced access to essential services, and accessible public information for all**.

Moreover, we prioritize **supporting displaced Ukrainians with disabilities** due to the Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine,

ensuring their rights and opportunities align with those of Lithuanian citizens with disabilities.

Our ongoing **employment reform** is yielding promising results. Over a five-year period, **the share of registered job seekers with disabilities who entered employment increased by 10%.**

A **new vocational rehabilitation model** will complement this positive development, offering personalized services. This includes a **coupon system for training services, assistance during training delivery, and "job carving"** to align job tasks with individual abilities. The **Employment Service will provide vocational guidance**, helping participants choose market-relevant professions and assist in employer matching. **Disability case managers** already play a critical role in assisting persons with disabilities. The number of case managers has doubled during 2022-2023. *[currently stands at 118 case managers.]*

Another our priority is **the abolition of the incapacity institute**, aiming to establish a support mechanism and **ensure equal access to human rights and fundamental freedoms for individuals with mental or behavioral disorders.**

Finally, in continuation of our efforts, building on the success of our previous candidate, Jonas Ruškus, and emphasizing our commitment to advancing disability rights globally, **Lithuania will nominate Dovilė Juodkaitė for the 2027-2030 cadency in the elections to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.**

We are also eager to engage with the CRPD Committee in the **upcoming dialogue on the combined second and third Lithuania reports.** This will be an opportunity to look ahead and discuss measures and priorities for the coming years.

Lithuania will continue to advocate for a disability rights perspective ahead of the **Summit of the Future.**

Thank you.