



**LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS NUOLATINĖ MISIJA JUNGTI**

**PERMANENT MISSION OF LITHUANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

No. SN78- 127

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Lithuania to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to the Note LA/COD/2/1, has the honour to transmit herewith the information provided by the relevant national authorities of the Republic of Lithuania, as regards the implementation of General Assembly resolution 73/204 of 20 December 2018, entitled "Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts".

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Lithuania to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

Enclosure: 1 page.

New York, 1 August 2019

H. E. Mr. António Guterres  
Secretary-General of the United Nations  
New York

Since the previous report of the Republic of Lithuania in 2016, a number of measures have been taken to strengthen the existing body of international humanitarian law, inter alia, with respect to its dissemination and full implementation at the national level. Such developments on the implementation of existing and adoption of new legal as well as political commitments are as follows:

1. In order to implement the National Programme on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men 2015–2021, approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, the Action Plan 2015–2017 (hereinafter referred to as the “Plan”) was drawn up by the Minister of National Defence. Referring to the need for current international operations to deploy gender Advisors to the theatre, the Lithuanian Armed Forces have persons trained for Gender Equality issues (Gender Adviser – GENAD). Before the closure of PRT in September 2013, each rotation civilian and military cooperation officer (women) was certified to work in Female Engagement area. After closure of PRT, the GENAD positions in international operations are filled by the personnel of the Lead Nation. According to the Plan, in 2017, one specialist was also sent to the *Gender Field Advisor course* in Sweden. In addition, one of the heads of the study programme of the General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania is also to be seconded to the Finnish military academy to learn about the practices followed in these institutions in relation to the inclusion of the subjects of equal opportunities in the curriculum of study programmes.

2. On 15 November 2017, the Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Lithuania has signed the ~~Vancouver principles on peacekeeping and the prevention of the recruitment and use of child soldiers~~. These principles take a more assertive stance on preventing child recruitment in the context of peacekeeping operations, specifically with regard to early warning and the active prevention of recruitment. In addition, the Vancouver Principles affirm commitments by member states to the training, planning, and conduct of their own forces in relation to engaging with the use of children as child soldiers. The overall aim of the principles is to improve the situation of children in armed conflict settings by prioritizing the protection of children within peace operations as central to the overall mandate of all United Nations Peacekeeping Missions.

3. Lithuania is also supportive of the Kigali principles on the protection of civilians that are a non-binding set of eighteen pledges for the effective and thorough implementation of the protection of civilians in UN peacekeeping. The Kigali principles address the most relevant aspects of peacekeeping, including assessment and planning, force generation, training and equipping personnel, performance and accountability. While they are framed around the protection of civilians, the responsible implementation of the principles would address much broader deficiencies that undermine the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations conducted in volatile situations, including peacekeeper abuse.

4. On 9 September 2017, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Secretary General of the United Nations have also signed the Commitment to eliminate sexual exploitation and abuse voluntary compact. This Compact was proposed by the Secretary-General to all Member States that support UN operations on the ground, whether their contribution is in the peacekeeping, humanitarian or development context or otherwise, and whether it consists of uniformed or civilian personnel or those working directly within the United Nations system. The Compact is a demonstration of the political will to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse, demand accountability and provide meaningful support to victims. It sets out a statement of commitment based on shared values, as well as specific commitments on the part of both the United Nations and signatory Member States.