

Pledge by Lithuania

Acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 31 January 1992

Ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict on 20 February 2003

Acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children child prostitution and child pornography on 5 August 2004



Pledges

1. Deinstitutionalization of all children under the age of 7.
2. An event is planned to mark the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The event is planned to have two parts – one including presentations and panel discussion by child rights experts and second part to be based on child’s participation. Currently, the event working plan is being developed, to decide all details such as time, place, comprehensive content of the event and similar.

Thirtieth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child States Parties’ commitments and initiatives

RESPONSE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

1) In light of the commitments we have made under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, as applicable, we have undertaken the following to highlight our commitment to the promotion, protection and realization of the rights of the child in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Convention:

- **What?** *(Please provide one specific and measurable action that will be taken to implement the Convention, e.g. birth registration for all children; increased access of children with disabilities to inclusive education; deinstitutionalization of all children under the age of XX.)*

Deinstitutionalization of all children under the age of 7. All children under the age of 7 who have lost care of their biological parents, will live in family-based environment such as foster care in the family or specialized guardians (professional foster carers).

- **Why?** *(Please provide the rationale behind the action to be taken, e.g. XX of children are not registered at birth; the majority of children with disabilities do not attend mainstream schools; XX of children currently live in alternative care institutions.)*

There still are 2126 children (as of August 7, 2019) living in institutional care, including children in child care institutions, children in institutions for children with disabilities, institutions for infants, community-based type of institutions and municipal child care groups. Still too many children are placed in the institutions when losing their parents care. In 2018, there were 2047 children who have lost their parental care in total – 872 of them were placed at the institution (about 42,6%).

- **How?** *(Please provide information on the steps envisaged, and resources allocated, to complete this action, such as through a national policy, strategy, programme or activities, e.g. implement a national birth registration programme; adopt a national policy on inclusive education; establish a family-based foster care system for children who cannot stay with their families. This could also include information on how the impact of this action will be assessed.)*

Since national policy on deinstitutionalization is already in place, and national project on developing conditions for a sustainable transition from institutional care to family and community-based services in Lithuania is being implemented already too, most activities will be continuous and some additional ones will be implemented, to complete the action. Planned measures involve development and strengthening of Foster Care Agencies that promote foster care, adoption and professional foster care, provide necessary help, services and assistance to foster and adoptive families and children in their families, as well as to people considering foster care, professional foster care or adoption. Further promotion of professional foster care will be implemented too, and more focus will be put on further development and availability of quality family and community-based services, especially to families to minimise cases of children being separated from their biological parents in general. Additional measures – child's temporary care – is established in the law, and development of this measure as well as ensuring quality of the measure will be done too (in this case, when possible child rights violations are identified, biological parents keep their parental rights, but the child is put in the safe environment (for instance, family of the relatives or family of people who have emotional connection with the child) and intense support, service and help is provided to the family to remove the risks factors). Legal restrictions will be put in place too (laws related to children social care), to prevent children to be placed in institutional care.

- **When?** *(Please provide a deadline within the next 5 years for completing this action, e.g. by 2022.)*

The action will be fully implemented by 2023.

- **Who?** *(Please provide the name of the Government ministry or agency who will take the lead in implementing and monitoring this action, as well as implementing partners including civil society and children's organizations, e.g. Ministry of Social Affairs or Prime Minister's Office in collaboration with XX civil society organizations.)*

The leading institution is the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania that will work in cooperation with such actors like: non-governmental organizations working in the field of the rights of the child and (or) child welfare, and (or) the rights of the persons with disabilities; State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, The Department for the Affairs of Disabled under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour.

- 2) We have made the following plans to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Convention:** *(Please provide information, including dates and venues, on any events or activities planned by the State party to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Convention.)*

An event is planned to mark the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The event is planned to have two parts – one including presentations and panel discussion by child rights experts and second part to be based on child's participation. Currently, the event working plan is being developed, to decide all details such as time, place, comprehensive content of the event and similar.