

Statement of the Republic of Latvia
13th session of the UPR
Review of Ecuador

Madam President,

Latvia would like to thank the delegation of Ecuador for the comprehensive national report, its presentation today and their constructive engagement in the UPR process.

Ecuador is among countries that have extended a standing invitation to the UN human rights special procedures. However, there are several requests of special procedures to visit the country that have not yet been accepted by Ecuador. We are of the opinion that once this voluntary commitment is made, it must be honored and result in genuine cooperation with the special procedures.

We would like to make the following **recommendations** to Ecuador:

- to accept the request made by the Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression, which has been awaiting a response since 2004;
- to fully align its national legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, including incorporating the Rome Statute definition of crimes and general principles, as well as adopting provisions enabling cooperation with the Court;
- to repeal all legal provisions that contravene international norms on freedom of expression, especially all insult laws (*desacato*) and all norms that criminalize defamation of public officials and institutions;
- to protect human rights defenders and journalists against harassment and attacks and to fully ensure freedom of assembly;
- to ensure prompt, impartial and timely investigation of all police abuses in order to bring perpetrators to justice and to put an end to impunity and the lack of accountability for police abuses.

Thank you, Madam President.