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H.E. Mr. Raimonds Jansons

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**Statement of the Republic of Latvia
16th session of the UPR
Review of the Russian Federation**

Mr. President,

Latvia would like to thank the delegation of the Russian Federation for the comprehensive national report and its presentation today.

We note the steps taken by the Russian Federation to improve human rights situation presented in the report. Nevertheless, we are deeply concerned about disproportionate restrictions imposed on non-governmental organizations. Recent actions of the authorities against the NGO sector raise a number of serious concerns and represent a step backward in guaranteeing civil and political rights. They undermine normal functioning of civil society – a cornerstone of every democratic country.

Latvia would like to make the following recommendations:

- to take necessary measures to ensure that legal provisions in Russian Federation's legislation do not create disproportionate restrictions to exercise freedom of assembly and expression;
- to ensure that the laws concerning non-governmental organizations do not impose undue obstacles to the functioning of non-governmental organizations;
- to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and to fully align legislation with all the obligations under the Rome Statute.

I thank you Mr. President!