

Check against delivery!

**Statement of the Republic of Latvia
18th session of the UPR
Review of Vietnam**

Mr. President,

Latvia welcomes the delegation of Vietnam and thanks them for the comprehensive national report that highlights important developments in the country since its first review.

We take positive note of recent legislative amendments aimed at discontinuation of application of the death penalty and life imprisonment to juvenile offenders. While noting the reports of gender based violence we encourage Vietnam to strengthen its efforts to address this issue in more systematic manner.

We further note that Vietnam has expressly stated its openness to cooperation with the Human Rights Council special procedures and since 2009 Vietnam has received visits from four special procedures mandate holders. Considering positive cooperation of Vietnam with special procedures mandate holders, Latvia **recommends** to Vietnam to consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council.

Latvia **also recommends** to Vietnam to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and to fully align its national legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statute.

Thank you, Mr. President.