

25

Delivered by  
Ms. Diana Kazina

*Check against delivery*

**Statement of the Republic of Latvia  
20<sup>th</sup> session of the UPR  
Kazakhstan  
30 Oct 2014**

Thank you, Mr President.

Latvia warmly welcomes the delegation of Kazakhstan to their second UPR cycle.

Latvia is pleased to note the amendments in law, introduced to prevent domestic violence, especially against the minors. Latvia recommends the Government of Kazakhstan to continue its efforts to ensure legal protection against abuse of women, children and the elderly in families.

Latvia would like to commend steps taken by the Government of Kazakhstan to develop Internet access in rural areas in past few years. Such access is important for education and it enhances freedom of expression and opinion. However, Latvia is concerned that new Criminal Codes may increase self-censorship, which would have a detrimental effect on freedom of expression. Latvia recommends the Government of Kazakhstan to continue its efforts to ensure that the laws protect freedom of expression.

Lastly, Latvia also recommends the Government of Kazakhstan to accede to and fully align its national legislation with all the obligations under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. We wish success in their future work.

Thank you, Mr. President.