

**Statement by Latvia on Kenya**  
**21<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR Working Group**  
**22 January 2015**

Mr. President,

Latvia welcomes the distinguished delegation of Kenya to this UPR and thanks it for the presentation of the national report. We commend Kenya on the adoption of a new constitution providing for a stronger legal and institutional framework for the advancement of democracy and human rights and we welcome the many new laws and policies to safeguard and enhance fundamental rights and freedoms. Latvia, however, shares the concerns of the UN country team that increased efforts are needed to address certain issues, in particular alleged cases of torture and extra-judicial killings by police and state security forces, and the lack of accountability for such acts. We are also concerned about attacks on journalists, bloggers and media workers, about defamation being a criminal offence under Kenyan law and about Kenya's lack of cooperation in good faith with the ICC investigations into post election violence.

We encourage Kenya to continue its efforts to address continuing human rights challenges and would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Investigate and bring to justice alleged perpetrators of all cases of torture and use of excessive force by security forces
2. Fully cooperate with the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC in line with Kenya's obligations under the Rome Statute of the ICC
3. Enact without delay the 2013 Access to Information Bill and Data Protection Bill
4. Abolish criminal sanctions for media offences, and
5. Extend a standing invitation to all HRC mandate holders.

Thank you Mr. President