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**Statement of the Republic of Latvia**  
**21<sup>st</sup> session of the UPR**  
**Review of Kyrgyzstan**

Mr. President,

Latvia welcomes the delegation of Kyrgyzstan and thanks it for the comprehensive national report. We commend legislative and institutional measures taken by the Government to implement the recommendations from the previous review.

Within this context, my delegation welcomes the steps taken by the Government to promote and protect rights of women in the country, in particular the long-term National Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality (2012-2020) and its initial National Action Plan (2012-2014). We would like to compliment Kyrgyzstan as the first country in Central Asia to adopt in February 2013 a National Action Plan on the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2013-2014). However, we remain concerned about the reports of continuous violence against women and, in particular, practice of the abductions for forced marriages and domestic violence. We **recommend** to Kyrgyzstan to take further steps to address gender based violence, including guaranteeing that the cases of violence are thoroughly investigated and rights to fair trial ensured.

We also note with concern the legislative amendments in criminal law of 2014 and its impact on freedom of media. We **recommend** the Government of Kyrgyzstan to ensure in law and practice that journalists and other persons can freely exercise their right to freedom of expression.

While acknowledging the benefits of the expertise that the special procedures can provide and openness Kyrgyzstan has shown in cooperation with special procedures mandate holders, Latvia **recommends** Kyrgyzstan to consider extending a standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council.

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

Thank you, Mr. President.

Rolands Ezergailis