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Statement of the Republic of Latvia

22nd session of the UPR

Review of Belarus

Mr. President,

headed by Mr. Ribanov

Latvia warmly welcomes the delegation of Belarus to their second UPR cycle review. We thank the delegation of Belarus for the national report and its presentation today.

Latvia remains concerned about the human rights situation in the country in particular with regard to freedom of assembly, association and expression as outlined in the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus. In this regard, we recommend the Government of Belarus to take appropriate measures to consider and implement the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur.

My delegation also notes with regret that the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus has not been granted access to Belarus. Latvia recommends Belarus to take appropriate measures to grant unfettered access to the Special Rapporteur as well as respond positively to pending visit requests of other special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, and eventually consider extending a standing invitation.

Finally, we recommend Belarus to accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and fully align its legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statute, including incorporating the Rome Statute definition of crimes and general principles, as well as adopting provisions enabling cooperation with the Court.

I thank you, Mr. President!