

**Statement by Latvia on Libya**  
**22<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR Working Group**  
**May 2015**

Mr. President,

Latvia welcomes the distinguished delegation of the Libya to this UPR. We appreciate the efforts made by Libya since the last UPR review to address various human rights challenges.

It is important that Libya continues to commit towards improving human rights on the ground in full collaboration with the treaty bodies and all relevant mandate holders. We welcome Libya's standing invitation to Special Procedures, but regret that none of them have been able to visit the country to assist Libya in tackling persisting HR concerns, in particular allegations of torture in detention centres and of attacks and abductions targeting humanitarian workers, human rights defenders and media professionals, thus impeding freedom of expression and opinion and the dissemination of information.

We encourage Libya to step up its efforts to abide by its international human rights obligations and would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Repeal all provisions in the penal code and other laws and regulations, which criminalize defamation, libel and slander and ensure that any restrictions on freedom of expression are in line with the ICCPR
2. Conduct impartial, thorough and effective investigations into all cases of attacks, harassment, and intimidation of human rights defenders and journalists and hold all perpetrators accountable
3. Adopt clear and enforceable provisions criminalizing violence against women, including domestic and sexual violence
4. Ensure that all allegations of torture are investigated in a prompt and impartial manner and that victims obtain redress in accordance with Libya's international obligations under CAT.

Thank you Mr. President