

18

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Statement of the Republic of Latvia

23rd session of the UPR

Review of Georgia

Mr. President,

Latvia warmly welcomes the delegation of Georgia and thanks it for the comprehensive national report. My delegation notes with appreciation measures taken by the Government of Georgia to implement the recommendations from the first review.

My delegation particularly welcomes recent adoption of National Human Rights Strategy and its Action Plan. We also note with appreciation legislative measures aimed at gender mainstreaming, in particular the National Action Plan on Gender Equality for 2014-2016, and the implementation measures adopted to this end. Within this context, we welcome recent initiatives by the Government of Georgia to implement recommendations of CEDAW committee regarding the representation of women in national and local legislative bodies. As recommended by the CEDAW committee we encourage Georgia to put additional efforts to overcome stereotypical attitudes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society. We also **recommend** Georgia to strengthen the Gender Equality Council.

We highly value the cooperation of Government of Georgia with Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council to tackle its human rights challenges and the openness the Government has shown by inviting mandate holders of the Human Rights Council. At the same time, Latvia shares the HC's concerns that international actors, including special procedures mandate holders, have not been able to visit the Occupied territories, in particular in view of deteriorating human rights situation in those parts of Georgia. It is our sincere hope that a swift solution to this issue can be

found in order to also allow inhabitants of Abkhazia and South Ossetia to benefit from the promise of human rights and rule of law reforms in Georgia.

Thank you, Mr. President.