

Statement by Latvia on Myanmar
23th Session of the UPR Working Group
November 2015

Mr. President,

Latvia welcomes the delegation of Myanmar and thanks it for presenting the national report. We appreciate efforts made by Myanmar to implement a number of previous UPR recommendations, most notably in the areas of education, health and social, economic and cultural rights and we welcome in this regard the recent signature by Myanmar of the ICESCR. We hope that this initiative will be followed by the accession to other key human rights instruments and by continued legal and constitutional reforms to bring the country's legal framework in line with international human rights laws and standards. Latvia equally encourages the government, in its efforts to strengthen the enjoyment of human rights, to make better use of the valuable expertise of Special Procedure mandate holders, and to ensure that upcoming elections are conducted in an environment that allows full and unhindered participation from all sectors of society and respects the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association.

We would like to make the following recommendations to Myanmar

1. Extend a standing invitation to special procedure mandate holders, respond positively to requests to visit the country and cooperate fully, promptly and substantively with the Special Procedures of the HRC
2. Accede to and implement all core human rights treaties
3. To ensure that the News Media Law and the 2014 Printing and Publishing law are amended to bring their provisions in line with international human rights standards protecting the freedom of expression and that any new laws regulating the internet or access to information also comply with such standards.
4. To ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC

Thank you Mr. President