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Statement of the Republic of Latvia

23rd session of the UPR

Review of Nepal

Mr. President,

Latvia welcomes the delegation of Nepal and thanks it for the national report. My delegation notes the steps taken by the Government to implement the recommendations from the first review and its work towards improving the human rights situation in the country. We note in particular the adoption of a new Constitution and the fourth Human Rights Strategy and Action Plan as well as other legislative measures adopted towards gender mainstreaming. We welcome the recent election of the first female president. At the same time we share the concerns of the Human Rights Committee regarding various forms of discrimination against women and the prevalence of harmful traditional practices such as child marriages. We therefore encourage the Government of Nepal to strengthen its efforts to address these human rights issues.

We note with regret that the Government of Nepal did not support recommendations to issue a standing invitation to Special Procedures during its first review and since then has not accepted requests for visits. We encourage the Government to make good use of the Special Procedures in tackling its human rights challenges. We therefore **recommend** Nepal to extend a standing invitation to all Special Procedure mandate holders.

Finally, Latvia **recommends** Nepal to accede to and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Thank you, Mr. President.