

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

Mr. President,

Latvia warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Rwanda and thanks it for the presentation of the comprehensive national report, which highlights the efforts made by Rwanda to implement the recommendations received during the first cycle through various measures and legal reforms. We welcome in particular the government's commitment to engage with the UN Human Rights mechanisms, which it demonstrated by extending a standing invitation to all mandate holders in 2011 and by receiving the visits of three UN special Procedures. We also appreciate the positive steps taken by Rwanda to promote and safeguard an independent and professional media. We encourage the government to continue these efforts by ensuring effective implementation of existing laws and policies and by creating a safe and unhindered environment for the exercise of the right to freedom of expression.

We would like to make the following recommendations to Rwanda:

1. To take all necessary measures to protect journalists from harassment and attacks and to ensure that all allegations of violence and intimidation of journalists are promptly and impartially investigated and perpetrators brought to justice.
2. To implement effective strategies and provide adequate funds to improve the quality of education and ensure inclusive and equal access to primary and secondary education for all children in Rwanda, including girls, children with disabilities and children belonging to minority groups and indigenous peoples.
3. To ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Thank you Mr. President

