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Statement of the Republic of Latvia

24th session of the UPR

Review of Estonia

Mr. President,

Latvia warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Estonia headed by H.E. Ms. Marina Kaljurand, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and thanks it for the comprehensive national report prepared in wide consultation with civil society organizations.

My delegation takes positive note of Estonia's active involvement in the work of the Human Rights Council. We particularly commend the activities carried out over the past three years of Estonia's membership in the Council focusing on highly important human rights issues such as freedom of expression, including on-line, gender mainstreaming, strengthening of civil society, all being equally important to the Latvian delegation. As a strong advocate of universal ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, we strongly welcome the leadership of Estonia in raising awareness of this issue within the Human Rights Council.

We appreciate the steps taken to implement recommendations from the first cycle through various measures and legislative initiatives. In this regard, we note in particular the extension of Estonia's human rights commitments by acceding to several international conventions and the measures adopted to further strengthen social integration policy.

As the biggest room in world is for the improvement, we would like to offer the following recommendations:

- Continue its good efforts to address violence against women and domestic violence, in particular through the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence ;
- Expedite establishment of National Human Rights Institution in accordance with Paris Principles.

Thank you, Mr. President.