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Italian intervention

**UPR – Latvia
26 January 2015**

Thank you, Mr. President.

We welcome the distinguished delegation of Latvia, and we would like to thank them for their national report and the presentation they shared with us today.

Italy commends Latvia for the attention it assigns to the promotion and protection of human rights and welcomes the various reforms adopted since the last UPR cycle.

We praise the results achieved in promoting gender equality and the creation of a Gender Equality Committee that facilitates and strengthens the cooperation between institutions and civil society on women's rights. With the aim of intensifying the progress in this field, we **recommend** Latvia to strengthen the national mechanism on gender equality.

We take note with appreciation of the recent amendments to criminal law aimed at strengthening the legal framework and at preventing domestic violence. Italy **recommends** to prioritise ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence and to continue efforts to combat domestic violence, including through actions aimed at raising public awareness on the issue.

Italy also **recommends** Latvia to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

Thank you.