

Statement by Pakistan for UPR of Latvia

26 January 2016

(24th Session of Working Group on UPR)

Mr. President

We thank the delegation of Latvia for presentation of its national report and congratulate the government of Latvia for the progress it made since its last review. The new laws to protect women against violence and efforts towards gender parity are encouraging, as well as naturalization and integration of ethnic minorities and migrants.

We however, note that victims of trafficking are still treated primarily as irregular migrants, and policies and practices still emphasize return of victims to their countries rather than ensuring redress and protection. We also note with concern the increasing negative political discourse on migrants, especially Muslims, which affect them adversely in socio-economic spheres.

We recommend:

- As Latvia had no national preventive mechanism as the Ombudsman or independent preventive mechanism, the government to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT) and International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families;

- Latvia to meet the provision of technical facilities as laid down requirements of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

We once again thank the delegation of Latvia for a comprehensive presentation and wish them a successful review.

I thank you.