PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

UPR Working Group
24th Session
Universal Periodic Review of the Republic of Latvia

Statement of the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova
Delivered by H.E. Victor Moraru, Ambassador, Permanent Representative
(Geneva, 26 January 2016)

Mr. President,

We welcome the distinguished Latvian delegation to the UPR Working Group and thank the head of delegation for the detailed national report and for today's informative presentation.

The Republic of Moldova commends Latvia's commitment to democracy and its positive record on human rights, *including in the field of minorities' integration*

We applaud Latvia for its constructive engagement with the UPR mechanism. Since the last UPR review, Latvia has taken significant steps to implement the recommendations and made progress in many areas.

We welcome the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the abolition of the death penalty from the Criminal Law.

Following our recommendations to Latvia in the first UPR cycle, we positively note the improvements to the normative framework for combating human trafficking that provided for the right of victims of human trafficking to receive State compensation.

We also recognize measures undertaken to implement the National Strategy for the Prevention of Human Trafficking, including awareness raising campaigns targeted at risk groups. Bearing in mind the UN Treaty Bodies' concerns in this area, we would be interested to learn whether the national identification and referral mechanism is fully operational.

While welcoming steps undertaken to prevent and combat torture and ill-treatment, we recommend Latvia *to consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and establish a National Preventive Mechanism.*

In conclusion, we wish Latvia success in the implementation of recommendations of the 2nd UPR cycle.

I thank you, Mr. President.