



**SOUTH AFRICAN PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

**24TH SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC
REVIEW**

REVIEW OF LATVIA

26 JANUARY 2016

PALAIS DES NATIONS

Check against delivery

Mr President,

South Africa welcomes the distinguished delegation of Latvia to the 24th Session of the UPR Working Group and thanks the delegation for the comprehensive presentation of its national report.

We have noted with appreciation that Latvia has made efforts towards the implementation of recommendations accepted during its first cycle review, in particular progress on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

South Africa would like to recommend that Latvia should:

1. Recognize the competence of the CERD to receive and consider communications from individuals;
2. Implement criminal law provisions aimed at combating racially motivated crimes and punishing perpetrators;
3. Define incitement to violence on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity as a criminal offence; and
4. Ratify OP-CAT, OP-ICESCR and OP-CEDAW.

Finally, Mr. President, my delegation wishes Latvia success in their second review.

I thank you.