

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW
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STATE UNDER REVIEW: LATVIA

(Statement by Turkey)

Mr. Umut DENİZ

Mr. President,

We cordially welcome the distinguished delegation of Latvia.

Turkey highly appreciates Latvia's determination to take effective steps to further protect and promote human rights through focused institutional strategies in various fields.

In particular, we commend the achievements in the areas of domestic violence and gender equality, as well as pertinent initiatives aiming to combat hate crimes, to simplify the naturalization procedure and to ensure proper social inclusion of vulnerable groups.

Turkey also welcomes the abolition of the death penalty from the Criminal Law, and the subsequent accession of Latvia to the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.

Our recommendations are as follows:

1. Strengthen ongoing efforts against domestic violence, including by adopting comprehensive legislation that would establish specific offences in this realm, and by establishing adequate monitoring and investigative mechanisms.
2. Sign and ratify the Istanbul Convention of the Council of Europe on violence against women and domestic violence.
3. Accede to the Optional Protocol to the CEDAW.
4. Ensure that all allegations of torture and ill-treatment are investigated by an independent mechanism, and that alleged perpetrators are effectively prosecuted.

I thank you, Mr. President.