

Statement by Hungary on Latvia**24th Session of the UPR Working Group****26 January 2016**

ANITA SZILÁGYI

Mr. President,

Hungary welcomes the comprehensive national report prepared and the update presented by the delegation of Latvia. We applaud the active and positive role of Latvia as a member of the Human Rights Council and wish further success in this endeavor.

We are convinced that the civil society was involved in the process of preparing the national report nevertheless we would appreciate more information about how Latvia sees the potential to further increase the inclusion of civil society in this process.

We appreciate the progress achieved in the implementation of accepted UPR recommendations, and commend Latvia for the steps to advance the promotion and protection of human rights in general.

Regarding the institutional and human rights infrastructure we took note positively of the functioning of the independent office of the Ombudsman elected by the Parliament with the task to protect human rights and promote good governance. As for international obligations however, Hungary recommends that Latvia signs and ratifies the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

The national report and the different stakeholders' reports present a few remaining challenges. Regarding the enhancement of the rights of minorities in the country, Hungary recommends that further efforts would be paid to elaborate on the education of minority languages and cultures. We also recommend providing the opportunity to use personal names, place names, street names and other topographical indications in minority languages, as well as enabling the contact with the authorities in minority language on the territories where a significant part of the population belongs to those minorities.

Thank you, Mr. President!