

Final Remarks
H.E. Mr. Andrejs Pildegovičs
State Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Latvia

24th session of the Human Rights Council UPR Working Group
January 26, 2016
Geneva, Switzerland

Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Latvian delegation, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to all delegations that actively participated in this interactive dialogue in the spirit of cooperation. We highly appreciate your comments, questions and recommendations. Latvia's review was greatly facilitated by the advanced questions submitted to us and contributions from various other stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations. I would also like to thank to the Secretariat and our 'troika' – Ethiopia, Indonesia and Germany – for their hard work. We look forward to continuing our good cooperation in the coming days.

The preparation process and examination of Latvia's second report in the framework of the Universal Periodic Review has served as an excellent occasion for us to review our human rights record and to reaffirm our commitments. It has also been a valuable opportunity to further strengthen coordination and cooperation among national institutions in the field of human rights.

We acknowledge the great interest shown regarding a wide range of human rights issues in Latvia. We noted both your positive assessments as well as encouragements regarding fields where further efforts are necessary. Our delegation genuinely tried to give you a deeper insight and overview on measures taken by Latvia in the field of

human rights since 2011. I'm convinced that this interactive session has been mutually enriching both for Latvia's delegation and for all countries that engaged.

Let me assure you that Latvia will consider all recommendations received today in a good faith and in a careful and thorough manner. All relevant institutions, their agencies and other actors will be engaged in this process. We will provide you with our opinion on all recommendations in due course.

I would like to conclude by once more reaffirming Latvia's strong commitment to democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Latvia has developed a modern institutional and legislative framework for promotion and protection of human rights. We have undertaken a broad range of international obligations and stand ready to further extend and strengthen our commitments. Your recommendations will serve as a road map for our further efforts.

We look forward to reporting on our progress during the next cycle of the Universal Periodic Review.

Thank you.