

**Statement by Latvia on Mozambique  
24<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR Working Group  
January 2016**

Mr. President,

Latvia warmly welcomes the Minister HE Mr. Lino de Almeida and his delegation to this UPR and thanks him for the presentation of the national report. We appreciate the country's efforts to implement previous UPR recommendations. We welcome in particular the recent criminalizing of various forms of sexual violence and abuse, the adoption of the 2014 Access to information Bill, and the establishment of a national Human Rights Commission. Latvia believes that Mozambique may benefit from the valuable expertise of special procedures and Treaty bodies while implementing its international human rights obligations and **recommends** that Mozambique, as committed to in the previous review, extend a standing invitation to all Special Procedures mandate holders and respond positively to all outstanding requests of mandate holders to visit the country.

Latvia is concerned that in recent years, the right to freedom of expression has been suppressed in Mozambique and that attacks, intimidation and harassment of journalists continue to take place. Latvia **recommends** that Mozambique take all necessary measures to ensure a safe working environment for journalists and media workers.

Finally, Mr. President, Latvia strongly believes in the important role of the ICC in ensuring accountability for, prevention of and justice for the victims of human rights violations. We therefore hope that the government will act on its previous UPR commitment **and recommend** that Mozambique ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Thank you!

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LATVIA