

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

Mr President,

Latvia extends a warm welcome to the minister HE Mr Kawana and his delegation and thanks it for the presentation of its well-structured national report. We appreciate efforts to implement previous UPR recommendations and welcome in particular measures to address poverty, provide clean drinking water, increase the number of health facilities and ensure access to education in the country. We also welcome the Government's strong commitment toward eradicating gender based violence, an issue which continues to be a serious concern in Namibia. We encourage Namibia to continue these good efforts and **recommend** that it implement awareness raising campaigns to educate individuals and traditional authorities on the violation of rights by harmful and discriminatory customary laws and practices, in particular on the need to ensure that these do not violate the rights of women and children. We note with satisfaction that Namibia has received the visit of several mandate holders since its previous UPR. We are of the view that Special Procedures are an important tool in ensuring the implementation of human rights on the ground and **we recommend** that Namibia extend a standing invitation to all Special Procedure mandate holders.

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 **recommend** that Namibia ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC.

Thank you.