

Statement by Latvia on Singapore
24th Session of the UPR Working Group
January 2016

Mr. President,

Latvia extends a warm welcome to the distinguished delegation of Singapore and thanks it for the presentation of the well-structured national report, prepared in wide consultation with civil society organisations. We appreciate the country's efforts to implement previous UPR recommendations through various measures and legal reforms and its desire to build a fair and inclusive society, taking into account its ethnically diverse population. We welcome measures taken to strengthen social protection, and in particular the country's commitment to ensure access to quality education for all, enhance gender equality, provide universal healthcare and strengthen child protection. We encourage Singapore to underpin their efforts to strengthen human rights on the ground by a strong and effective cooperation with Treaty bodies and mechanisms of the Human Rights Council and **recommend** that Singapore ratify all core human rights treaties to which it is not a party yet, including the ICERD, ICCPR, ICESCR and CAT. **We further recommend** that Singapore extend a standing invitation to all Special Procedure mandate holders.

As a strong advocate for the freedom of expression, Latvia shares the concern of the Special rapporteur about the sentencing of an adolescent blogger for expressing his opinion to four weeks in prison. **We recommend** that Singapore review media laws to align them with international human rights standards on freedom of expression.

Finally, Mr. President, Latvia strongly believe 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 Singapore ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC.

Thank you!

Ellen Verpoest van Thiel