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Statement of the Republic of Latvia

25th session of the UPR

Review of Tajikistan

Mr. President,

Latvia welcomes the delegation of Tajikistan and thanks it for the presentation of national report. My delegation notes the steps taken by the Government to implement recommendations from the previous review.

We note in particular the concerns expressed by various treaty bodies regarding the limited representation of women in the decision making positions of the public sector. While acknowledging positive increase of the positions occupied by women, we encourage the Government of Tajikistan to strengthen its efforts in this regard.

In its concluding observations Human Rights Committee expressed concerns about undue restrictions imposed to exercise freedom of expression, and in particular by limiting access to Internet websites and social networks. My delegation would like to inquire what measures have been taken to address these concerns.

We would also like to encourage the Government of Tajikistan to make good use of the Special Procedures in tackling its human rights challenges. Within this context, we reiterate our **recommendation** to extend a standing invitation to all Special Procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council.

Finally, we **recommend** that Tajikistan considers accession to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the ICC.

Thank you, Mr. President.