

Statement by Latvia on Tanzania
25th Session of the UPR Working Group
May 2015

Mr. President,

Latvia warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Tanzania to this UPR and thanks it for the presentation of the national report. We appreciate the efforts made by Tanzania to implement recommendations from the first cycle. We welcome in particular Tanzania's enhanced focus on eradicating gender based violence but regret that the current legal framework does not sufficiently protect women and girls against violence, including marital rape and sexual exploitation. More thorough action should equally be taken to address the wide spread phenomenon of child marriage, resulting in high maternal mortality rates, increased risk of HIV exposure and early school drop-out. Latvia believes that Tanzania would benefit from enhanced cooperation with the Special Procedures and their valuable expertise and know-how to address human rights challenges. Such challenges regrettably also include a shrinking space for journalists and civil society and we urge Tanzania to act on its previous commitment to ensure full freedom of expression, association and assembly. We wish Tanzania success with its UPR and have the following recommendations:

1. Respond positively to all outstanding requests of Special Procedures and extend a standing invitation to all Special Procedure Mandate holders
2. Investigate promptly all attacks against journalists and ensure justice and adequate redress for the victims
3. Criminalize marital rape and domestic violence and sufficiently staff and equip Gender Desks in police stations to ensure the proper reporting and investigation of incidences of violence
4. Ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC, to ensure accountability for, prevention of and justice for the victims of human rights violations.

Thank you.