*Check against delivery!*

**Statement of the Republic of Latvia**

**26th session of the UPR**

**Review of South Sudan**

Mr. President,

Latvia welcomes the delegation of South Sudan and thanks it for the presentation of national report.

My delegation recognizes certain progress in protection of human rights in South Sudan but remains deeply concerned about the reports of international human rights monitoring mechanisms documenting deliberate targeting of civilians and humanitarian workers, sexual and gender-based violence, arbitrary arrests and detention, cases of enforced disappearances. We are equally alarmed by dire humanitarian situation with mass displacements within and outside the country and access restrictions to humanitarian assistance. We call on authorities of South Sudan to ensure unhindered and safe access of humanitarian aid organizations for those in need of assistance.

My delegation makes the following two recommendations:

1. Investigate promptly cases of sexual and gender-based violence and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice;
2. Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Thank you!