*Check against delivery!*

**Statement of the Republic of Latvia**

**27th session of the UPR**

**Review of India**

Mr. President,

Latvia welcomes the delegation of India and thanks it for the national report. My delegation acknowledges the steps taken by the Government to implement recommendations from the previous review, in particular its strong commitment to eradicate violence and discrimination against women. In this regard, we encourage India to continue its efforts to improve protection of women against violence particularly in rural areas. We further encourage India to strengthen its efforts to enhance women's political participation which remains low at the national level.

My delegation believes that India would benefit from the substantial experience of the special procedures of the HRC in tackling its human rights challenges. We note, however, a number of pending visit requests despite standing invitation. We **recommend** to India to respond positively to visit requests by the Special Procedures of the HRC.

Latvia strongly believes in the important role of the ICC in ensuring accountability and justice for the victims of human rights violations. We **recommend** that India accedes to and fully aligns its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the ICC.

 I thank you!