**The 44th Session of the UPR Working Group**

**Review of Turkmenistan**

**6 November 2023**

**Statement by the Republic of Latvia**

Thank you, President,

Latvia welcomes the delegation of Turkmenistan to the UPR Working Group and thanks the delegation for presenting its national report. We note the measures taken by Turkmenistan since the third review and encourage to make further efforts in fulfilling its human rights obligations and commitments.

Latvia would like to **recommend**:

1. to consider ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
2. to fully implement the National Plan of Action for Gender Equality as a step towards increasing opportunities for women participation in public and political life;
3. to cease harassment, arbitrary detentions, reprisals, travel bans and acts of intimidation against human rights defenders, journalists and media workers, activists and other critical voices in the country;
4. to refrain from use of counter-terrorism measures to restrict freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly;
5. to continue the cooperation with United Nations special procedures mandate holders in an open, constructive and comprehensive manner.

Latvia wishes the delegation of Turkmenistan success in the review.

I thank you.