**The 45th Session of the UPR Working Group**

**Review of China**

**23 January 2004**

**Statement by the Republic of Latvia**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Latvia welcomes the delegation of China to the UPR Working Group and thanks the delegation for presenting its national report.

Latvia would like to make the following recommendations:

1. to respond positively to pending visit requests by the special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council;
2. to consider ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
3. to cease the regulatory and judicial persecution of human rights defenders and journalists for exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly.

Latvia wishes the delegation of China success in the review.

I thank you.