**The 37th session of the UPR Working Group**

**Review of Mauritania**

**19 January 2021**

**Statement by Latvia**

Thank you Madam President,

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

Latvia would like to **recommend** to the Government of Mauritania:

1. To ensure that national legislation is in line with international human rights standards, including by removing the crime of apostasy from national legislation and respecting the right to change religion;
2. To establish a moratorium on death penalty with a view to its eventual abolition, and consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol of the ICCPR.

Latvia would also like to **reiterate the following recommendation from the previous UPR cycle**:

1. To consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders of the HRC;
2. To ratify and fully align its national legislation with all the obligations under the Rome Statute of the ICC.

Latvia wishes to the delegation of Mauritania success in the review.

I thank you.