**Final remarks by
Mr Andris PELŠS
State Secretary**

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

**Republic of Latvia**

**38th session of the Human Rights Council UPR Working Group**

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Madam President,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen!

I would like to thank all delegations that participated in Latvia’s third Universal Periodic Review. We value your interventions, comments and recommendations made on an extensive range of human rights issues. Latvia notes the important role played by the non-governmental organizations and civil society that participated in the review process. Latvia undertakes to be committed in advancing effective enjoyment of human rights by carefully considering all recommendations received.

On behalf of Latvia’s delegation, I would like to thank the Secretariat and members of our „troika“ – Bolivia, Italy and Japan for successful cooperation during the preparation of the report. Furthermore, I would like to thank members of the Latvian national delegation for their notable and tireless involvement in the review process.

I reiterate Latvia’s strong support to the UPR mechanism. It is an important international instrument that provides for a valuable advice on the areas for further progress. The recommendations received in the previous UPR cycles have significantly contributed to the protection of human rights in Latvia. We are proud of the recommendations already implemented and progress made. To name a few, Latvia has achieved a notable progress in ensuring gender equality and women representation in politics, judiciary, science and armed forces. We grant automatic citizenship to new-born children of non-citizen families. We ensure freedom of speech and assembly by ranking 22nd in the World Press Freedom Index. Latvia has reached significant development in ensuring participation of civil society and integration of persons belonging to ethnic minorities. The recommendations received in the course of this UPR cycle identify the areas for further development and will guide us towards strengthening the human rights in Latvia.

 To conclude, let me assure you that developments in the field of human rights will remain on our everyday agenda. We will carefully consider the comments and recommendations received in the third cycle and present our final decision on recommendations received by submitting addenda.

Thank you.