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**UPR38 – Latvia**

**Statement by Slovakia**

11 May 2021

Madam President,

Slovakia welcomes the delegation of Latvia to this UPR session and thanks it for the presentation of its national report.

We commend Latvia for taking a number of positive steps to address human rights related issues and to advance its human rights legislative framework. In this vein, Slovakia recognizes the legislative amendments aimed at ensuring the equality of women and men and prohibiting gender-based discrimination.

At the same time, we also encourage Latvia to ratify the core UN human rights treaties to which it was not yet party and incorporate them into its national legislation.

My country also welcomes significant progress in civil society participation in Latvia and notes with appreciation the launch of the State budget programme in this regard.

We would like to offer following recommendations to Latvia for further consideration:

1. strengthen efforts to ensure equal participation in political and public life, as well as education and employment,
2. include in the legislation a definition of racial discrimination, in accordance with article 1 of the ICERD, and take necessary steps to adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law,
3. take appropriate measures to address effectively hate speech and to promote tolerance,
4. ratify the ICPPED and the Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure.

We wish Latvia a successful review.

I thank you, President.