Albania warmly welcomes the delegation of Latvia and thanks it for the presentation today.

We commend Latvia for its demonstrated commitment to promote and protect human rights at the national and international level, the active contribution to the work of the Human Rights Council, the UPR Working Group and various human rights mechanisms, and the significant steps taken to strengthen civil society participation. We encourage Latvia to ratify the core human rights treaties to which it is not yet party.

Albania notes with appreciation the adoption of Latvia's first National Action Plan on the Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (2020-2025), the legislative amendments aimed at ensuring gender equality and prohibiting gender-based discrimination, as well as the specific attention that Latvia’s development cooperation policy pays to strengthening gender equality.

Albania recommends that Latvia:

1. Step up efforts to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention).
2. Consider introducing electoral gender quotas, with a view to increasing the political representation of women.

We wish Latvia a successful review.