**The 39th session of the UPR Working Group**

**Review of Tajikistan**

**4 November 2021**

**Statement by Latvia**

Thank you, Madam President,

Latvia welcomes the delegation of Tajikistan to the UPR Working Group and thanks for presenting its national report. We appreciate the steps taken to implement the recommendations from the previous cycle, including signing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and encourage to finalise the ratification process. We would also like to encourage equal representation of women in all areas of public and political life, particularly in decision-making positions.

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

1. To retain the moratorium on the death penalty in all circumstances and work towards its complete abolition;
2. To consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol of the ICCPR;
3. To promote and protect the right to freedom of expression and media freedom;
4. To take measures to foster a safe, respectful and enabling environment for civil society and human rights defenders, especially women HRDs, free from persecution, intimidation and harassment.

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.

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

I thank you.