**The 40th session of the UPR Working Group**

**Review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**

**25 January 2022**

**Statement by Latvia**

Thank you, President,

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

We note the measures taken by the Government since the previous review and encourage further efforts in fulfilling its human rights obligations and commitments.

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

1. To promote and protect the right to freedom of assembly, freedom of expression and media freedom, as well as the safety of journalists;
2. 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;
3. To conduct full and impartial investigations of all threats and attacks against and killings of journalists, civil society actors and human rights defenders, and hold the perpetrators accountable.

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

1. To respond positively to all pending visit requests of the special procedures and extend a standing invitation to the mandate holders.

Latvia wishes the delegation of Venezuela success in the review.

I thank you.