**The 42nd session of the UPR Working Group**

**Review of Gabon**

**24 January 2023**

**Statement by the Republic of Latvia**

Thank you, President,

Latvia welcomes the delegation of Gabon to the UPR Working Group. We thank the Government for presenting its national report, and welcome the amendments to the Penal Code to decriminalise same-sex relations between consenting adults, and criminalize female genital mutilation, widowhood practices, and levirate and sororate marriages.

Latvia would like to **recommend**:

1. to expedite the operationalisation of the National Human Rights Commission, and ensure that the Commission complies with the Paris Principles;
2. to ensure that national legislation is in line with the Convention on Rights of the Child, in particular by providing free and universal birth registration to all children born in the territory of Gabon;
3. to take all necessary measures both in law and in practice, to combat violence against women and girls and domestic violence, including by ensuring access to justice for victims and survivors, and raising awareness among women of their rights;
4. to take all necessary measures, both in law and in practice, to eliminate child, early and forced marriage, polygamy, ritual crimes, and other harmful practices.

Latvia wishes the delegation of Gabon success in the review.

I thank you.