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

**Review of Guatemala**

**25 January 2023**

**Statement by the Republic of Latvia**

Thank you, President,

Latvia welcomes the delegation of Guatemala to the UPR Working Group. We thank the Government of Guatemala for presenting its national report, and welcome the amendment of Civil Code, setting the minimum age for marriage or entering into a union at 18 years of age for both women and men.

Latvia would like to **recommend****:**

1. to abolish the death penalty for all crimes, and consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol of the ICCPR and the Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights to Abolish the Death Penalty;
2. to amend the relevant Criminal Code provisions in order to bring the definition of torture in line with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
3. to amend the defamation legislation in order to harmonize it with Article 19 of the ICCPR;
4. to take all necessary measures, both in law and in practice, to combat violence against women and girls, and domestic violence, in particular by promptly, impartially and effectively investigating all reports of gender-based violence, holding perpetrators accountable and ensuring remedies to victims;
5. to take measures to foster a safe, respectful and enabling environment for civil society and human rights defenders, especially women and indigenous HRDs, free from persecution, intimidation and harassment;
6. to promote and protect the right to freedom of assembly, freedom of expression and media freedom, as well as the safety of journalists.

Latvia wishes the delegation of Guatemala success in the review.

I thank you.