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

**Review of Zambia**

**30 January 2023**

**Statement by the Republic of Latvia**

Thank you, President,

Latvia welcomes the delegation of Zambia to the UPR Working Group. We thank the Government of Zambia for presenting its national report, and welcome the recent decision by Zambia to abolish the death penalty and repeal Section 69 of the Penal Code on criminal defamation of the President.

Latvia would like to **recommend**:

1. to consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol of the ICCPR;
2. to ensure that the Zambia Human Rights Commission is in full conformity with the Paris Principles, provide the Commission with adequate resources, and ensure that members serve on a full-time basis to avoid conflicts of interest;
3. to repeal all laws that criminalise same-sex relations between consenting adults;
4. to promote the participation of girls in all levels of education, especially in rural areas, including by making schools more accessible and ensuring that schools are a safe space for girls;
5. to criminalize marital rape.

Latvia wishes the delegation of Zambia success in the review.

I thank you.