**The 43rd session of the UPR Working Group**

**Review of Mali**

**2 May 2023**

**Statement by the Republic of Latvia**

Thank you, President,

Latvia welcomes the delegation of Mali to the UPR Working Group. We thank the Government for presenting its national report, and welcome the accreditation with category A status of the National Human Rights Commission. However, we are concerned that the Commission is facing challenges in establishing a presence throughout the country due to its limited budget and has not been authorized to visit some detention centres.

Latvia would like to **recommend**:

1. to respond to all pending visit requests from the UN special procedures mandate holders, and consider extending a standing invitation to them;
2. to abolish the death penalty, and consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol of the ICCPR;
3. to take all necessary measures, both in law and in practice, to prevent, investigate and punish acts of violence against women and girls, in particular conflict-related sexual violence;
4. to take all necessary measures, both in law and in practice, to eliminate child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation, and other harmful practices;
5. to criminalise the recruitment and use of children, including those between the ages of 15 and 17, by armed groups.

Latvia wishes the delegation of Mali success in the review.

I thank you.