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

**Review of Israel**

**9 May 2023**

**Statement by the Republic of Latvia**

Thank you, President,

Latvia welcomes the delegation of Israel to the UPR Working Group and thanks the Government for presenting its national report. We note the measures taken by Israel since the previous review and encourage further efforts in fulfilling its human rights obligations and commitments.

Latvia would like to **recommend**:

1. to respond to pending visit requests by the UN special procedures mandate holders and consider the extending a standing invitation to them;
2. to consider ratifying the two Optional Protocols of the ICCPR;
3. to ratify and fully align its national legislation with all the obligations under the Rome Statute of the ICC;
4. to establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles;
5. to ensure that all allegations of torture and ill-treatment are promptly, impartially, thoroughly and effectively investigated, hold perpetrators accountable and ensure redress for victims;
6. to take measures to foster a safe, respectful and enabling environment for civil society, journalists and human rights defenders, especially women HRDs, free from persecution, intimidation and harassment.

Latvia wishes the delegation of Israel success in the review.

I thank you.