**The 29th session of the UPR Working Group**

**Review of Serbia**

**24 January 2018**

**Statement by Latvia**

Thank you Mr President!

Latvia welcomes the delegation of Serbia to the 29th session of the UPR Working Group and thanks it for the presentation of the national report.

Latvia acknowledges the progress made by the Government of Serbia in promoting and protecting human rights. Nevertheless, we note the concerns of the Human Rights Committee regarding the lack of implementation of the law on gender equality; and prosecution of journalists and members of civil society for expressing their opinions.

Latvia would like to make following recommendations to the Government of Serbia:

1. to ensure full implementation of the law on gender equality;
2. to refrain from prosecuting journalists, human rights defenders and other members of civil society as a means of deterring or discouraging from freely expressing their opinion.

Latvia wishes to the Government of Serbia all success in the review.

I thank you!