**The 31st session of the UPR Working Group**

**Review of Central African Republic**

**9 November 2018**

**Statement by Latvia**

Thank you Mr President,

Latvia welcomes the delegation of Central African Republic and thanks it for presenting national report.

We note with the appreciation the ratification by the Central African Republic of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as well as the extension of a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council.

Latvia is concerned by the increased conflict-related sexual violence as highlighted in the Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic and Report of the Secretary General on conflict-related sexual violence.

We would like to recommend the following: to prioritize the investigation and prosecution of cases of sexual violence, including the provision of adequate protection for victims and witnesses.

Latvia wishes to the Government success in the review.

I thank you.