**The 35th session of the UPR Working Group**

**Review of Lao People’s Democratic Republic**

**21 January 2020**

**Statement by Latvia**

Thank you Madam President,

Latvia welcomes the delegation of Lao People’s Democratic Republic.

We note measures taken by the Government in the field of promotion and protection of human rights since the previous review. Latvia welcomes information provided on Lao People’s Democratic Republic’s cooperation with the Human Rights Council’s special procedure mandate holders since the last review.

We remain concerned about continued restrictions on the freedom of expression. In this regard, we would like to **recommend** to the Government to ensure the freedom of expression and media freedom by bringing national legislation into line with international standards.

Latvia would also like to reiterate following **recommendations** from the previous cycle:

* consider the extension of a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council;
* accede to and fully align national legislation with all the obligations under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Latvia wishes to the delegation of Lao People’s Democratic Republic successful review.

I thank you.