**The 36th session of the UPR Working Group**

**Review of Belarus**

**2 November 2020**

**Statement by Latvia**

Thank you Madam President,

Latvia welcomes the delegation of Belarus to the UPR Working Group and thanks for presenting its national report.

We remain deeply concerned about the human rights situation in the country, in particular the exercise of civil and political rights, including freedom of association and freedom of expression.

In this regard, Latvia would like to **reiterate the following recommendations from the previous UPR cycle**:

* To grant unimpeded access to and cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus, as well as with the OHCHR;
* To consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders of the HRC;
* To ratify and fully align its national legislation with all the obligations under the Rome Statute of the ICC.

Latvia would also like to **recommend** to the Government of Belarus:

* To establish a moratorium on death penalty with a view to its eventual abolition, and consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol of the ICCPR.

Latvia wishes to the delegation of Belarus success in the review.

I thank you.