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Latvia

Compilation of information prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the outcome of the previous review.¹ It is a compilation of information contained in relevant United Nations documents, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

II. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with human rights mechanisms

2. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recommended that Latvia ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.²

3. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Latvia strive towards the full implementation of the recommendations contained in the Committee's concluding observations and Views. It should consider strengthening legislation to enable the authors of communications to whom the Committee had granted measures of reparation to seek enforcement of such measures before national courts.³

4. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended ratifying the International Labour Organization (ILO) Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention, 1993 (No. 174).⁴

5. UNESCO recommended that Latvia ratify the Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education.⁵

6. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) encouraged Latvia to lift reservations to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons.⁶

7. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights was gravely alarmed by the steps taken or being considered to withdraw from the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. With so many civilians suffering from the use of anti-personnel mines, the High



Commissioner called upon all States to refrain from leaving any international humanitarian law treaty and to immediately suspend any withdrawal process that might be underway.⁷

III. National human rights framework

1. Constitutional and legislative framework

8. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Latvia fully incorporate all the rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as such into its domestic legal order with a constitutional rank equal to other human rights and fundamental freedoms.⁸

2. Institutional infrastructure and policy measures

9. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Latvia continue to ensure that the Office of the Ombudsman complied fully with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) and was able to carry out its mandates effectively and independently. Latvia should also: (a) promptly implement the recommendations of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, including by providing functional immunity for the Ombudsman, establishing limits on the Ombudsman's terms of office and providing for an independent and objective dismissal process; and (b) ensure that the national preventive mechanism operated independently and was provided with its own financial and human resources.⁹

IV. Promotion and protection of human rights

A. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

1. Equality and non-discrimination

10. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Latvia: (a) adopt and implement a comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation and policy framework aimed at ensuring equal access to all economic, social and cultural rights without discrimination, taking into account the Committee's general comment No. 20 (2009) on non-discrimination in economic, social and cultural rights; and (b) take effective measures to combat prejudice and discrimination based on colour, language, religion, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation and gender identity and facilitate disadvantaged and marginalized groups' access to economic, social and cultural rights, paying particular attention to employment, health and education.¹⁰

11. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Latvia strengthen its efforts to combat hate speech and hate crime. In particular, it should: (a) ensure that all acts of hate speech and hate crimes were promptly and effectively investigated, that perpetrators were prosecuted and, if convicted, punished with appropriate sanctions and that victims were provided with full reparation; (b) strengthen the national capacity to eradicate hate speech and hate crime, including by providing adequate training to law enforcement officials, judges and prosecutors, allocating the necessary resources to entities to effectively address hate crime and enhancing the collection of data on hate crime; (c) take effective measures to publicly condemn and punish hate speech, in particular hate speech by politicians and high-level officials; and (d) raise public awareness of the prohibition of hate speech and hate crime and of channels to report such crimes, and take all measures necessary to promote and facilitate such reporting.¹¹

2. Right to life, liberty and security of person, and freedom from torture

12. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Latvia ensure that all legal safeguards were guaranteed in practice to all detained persons in line with the Committee's general comment No. 35 (2014) on liberty and security of person, including the right of

detainees to be assisted by a lawyer from the outset of the deprivation of liberty.¹² In particular it should: (a) increase the availability of, and recourse to, alternatives to pretrial detention in line with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules) and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules), including by ensuring effective access to bail; (b) take all measures necessary to ensure that pretrial detention was reviewed in a prompt, thorough and impartial manner by the relevant judicial authorities, including through the effective implementation of the right to habeas corpus; and (c) increase its efforts to improve the conditions of detention and ensure access to adequate ventilation, nutritious food, clean water and healthcare for all persons deprived of their liberty.¹³

13. According to the Human Rights Committee, Latvia should ensure that conditions of detention complied fully with relevant international human rights standards, including the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules). It should, in particular: (a) increase its efforts to prevent deaths and suicides in prisons and to guarantee the right to life of all people in custody, in particular by strengthening healthcare services, supporting mental healthcare and imposing limits on solitary confinement; (b) conduct prompt, effective and independent investigations of all deaths of prisoners; (c) facilitate the independent, effective and regular monitoring of all places of detention without prior notice and on an unsupervised basis; and (d) dismantle prison self-governance hierarchies that enabled the exploitation or abuse of vulnerable prisoners, including by creating a system for categorizing individuals deprived of liberty on the basis of their individualized risk level, and continue efforts to fully implement a rehabilitation-based approach in prisons.¹⁴

14. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Latvia ensure that the treatment of persons in psychiatric institutions fully conformed with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In particular, Latvia should: (a) establish an effective and independent monitoring and reporting system for mental and social care institutions, aimed at effectively investigating and sanctioning abuses and providing redress to victims and their families; (b) improve living conditions, including by ensuring access to the outdoors and to outdoor activities; (c) ensure that minors were not placed in adult hospitals or wards, to protect them from violence, abuse and harm; and (d) strengthen the capacity of psychiatric institutions by increasing the number of specialists and staff, especially psychiatrists, to address the low doctor-to-patient ratio in some institutions, and ensure multidisciplinary approaches to treatment in order to preserve the dignity and well-being of patients.¹⁵

15. According to the Human Rights Committee, Latvia should take all measures necessary to prevent and eradicate torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In particular, it should: (a) revise its legislation to ensure that it contained a definition of torture that was fully compliant with article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and that penalties in the Criminal Law were commensurate with the gravity of the crime;¹⁶ (b) conduct thorough, independent and impartial investigations into all allegations of ill-treatment in custody and all allegations of excessive use of force by law enforcement officers in accordance with the Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Istanbul Protocol), prosecute perpetrators, including law enforcement officials, and, if they were convicted, punish them with sanctions commensurate with the gravity of the crime, and provide victims with full remedy and redress, including rehabilitation; (c) reinforce oversight mechanisms to prevent and punish the excessive use of force by law enforcement officials; and (d) ensure that all persons deprived of their liberty had access to an independent, secure and effective complaint mechanism to investigate allegations of torture and ill-treatment and guarantee the protection of persons who filed complaints.¹⁷

3. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

16. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Latvia take all measures necessary, in law and in practice, to safeguard the independence and impartiality of the judiciary and

guarantee that judges and their staff could operate without any pressure or interference from the legislative and executive branches. In that regard, it should ensure that the procedures for the selection, appointment, promotion and removal of judges, including the appointment of Supreme Court judges, were transparent and impartial and complied with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and international standards, such as the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary.¹⁸

17. The same Committee further recommended that Latvia increase its efforts to prevent and eradicate corruption at all levels, including in government and in the judiciary. It should redouble its efforts to investigate all allegations of corruption promptly, thoroughly, independently and impartially and ensure that perpetrators were prosecuted and, if convicted, punished with penalties commensurate with the gravity of the offence and that victims were provided with adequate reparation. The State should also: (a) continue the consolidation of the anti-corruption activities in the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau to avoid duplication in and the fragmentation of the national anti-corruption framework; and (b) expedite the operationalization of the interest representation register and declaration systems.¹⁹

18. According to the Human Rights Committee, Latvia should: (a) ensure that all cases of violence against women and girls were thoroughly and promptly investigated, and that perpetrators were prosecuted and, if convicted, punished with penalties commensurate with the gravity of the offence; and (b) bolster investigative and judicial capacity by training judges, prosecutors, law enforcement authorities and health personnel to respond to allegations of gender-based violence effectively and in a gender-sensitive manner, and increase the number of women prosecutors and police officers.²⁰

4. Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life

19. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Latvia take all measures necessary to ensure that the right to conscientious objection to military service was guaranteed, in law and in practice, and that alternative service was accessible to all conscientious objectors, without discrimination. In particular, it should: (a) ensure the independence and impartiality of the procedures for assessing applications for conscientious objector status, including by placing such procedures under the full control of civilian authorities entirely separate from the Ministry of Defence; and (b) consider revising the legislative framework to provide for honourable discharge on grounds of conscience and ensure that individuals who received early termination from military service on those grounds did not face financial or other penalties.²¹

20. According to the Human Rights Committee, Latvia should take all measures necessary to guarantee that everyone could exercise the right to freedom of expression, in accordance with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Committee's general comment No. 34 (2011) on the freedoms of opinion and expression. In particular, the State should: (a) reconsider the restrictions introduced into the Electronic Mass Media Law and the National Security Concept; (b) expand efforts to increase the public availability of information and programming, in the media and online, in non-Latvian languages; and (c) prevent and combat all acts of harassment and intimidation against journalists and guarantee the effective protection of journalists, and ensure that all allegations of harassment and intimidation were investigated, that perpetrators were brought to justice and appropriately punished and that victims received appropriate reparations.²² UNESCO recommended that Latvia decriminalize defamation and place it within civil defamation legislation that was in accordance with international standards. It also encouraged Latvia to ensure the establishment of a transparency and accountability mechanism in the governance of digital platforms to ensure that human rights were upheld and the risks associated with the spread of harmful content online were mitigated.²³

21. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Latvia ensure the full enjoyment of the right to participate in public affairs, including by women and persons with disabilities. It should also take measures to promote participation in public affairs by long-term residents who were not citizens, including by considering the possibility of allowing them to take part in municipal elections.²⁴ It further recommended that Latvia continue to promote the participation of minorities in electoral processes.²⁵

22. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Latvia promote increased representation of women at all levels of the public administration, particularly in senior and decision-making positions.²⁶

5. Right to marriage and family life

23. UNESCO recommended that Latvia consider amending legislation to ensure that the minimum age of marriage was 18 years without exception.²⁷

6. Prohibition of all forms of slavery, including trafficking in persons

24. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Latvia further strengthen its efforts to effectively prevent, combat and punish trafficking in persons. It should, in particular: (a) accelerate the establishment of a national referral mechanism for combating trafficking in persons; and (b) enhance prevention measures and awareness-raising campaigns on trafficking in persons for the general public, as well as specialized training for all State officials, including the judiciary, prosecutors and law enforcement and border authorities, on standards and procedures for the prevention of trafficking and the identification and referral of victims of trafficking, including migrants, asylum-seekers and children in social care institutions.²⁸

25. The same Committee recommended that Latvia: (a) ensure that all cases of trafficking in persons were promptly, thoroughly, effectively and impartially investigated, that perpetrators were prosecuted and, if convicted, punished with penalties commensurate with the gravity of the offence, and that victims received full reparation, including compensation; (b) modify the legal framework to ensure that victims were not prosecuted or punished for crimes that they were forced to commit as a result of being trafficked; (c) provide victims with adequate protection and assistance, such as safe and specialized shelters, access to healthcare and legal protection, and facilitate access to effective remedies and rehabilitation and reintegration support services; (d) continue efforts to strengthen the capacity of judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officials and the border authorities to investigate trafficking in persons; and (e) ensure that sufficient financial, technical and human resources were allocated to all institutions responsible for preventing, investigating and punishing trafficking in persons, as well as to those providing protection and assistance, including civil society organizations.²⁹

7. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

26. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Latvia: (a) continue its efforts to reduce unemployment, including long-term unemployment, in all regions of the country; (b) continue its efforts to support Roma in gaining access to employment, including by implementing targeted positive measures and facilitating their access to technical and vocational training opportunities, and ensure that programmes promoting the integration of Roma into the labour market did not perpetuate their concentration in low-skilled jobs and in the informal economy; (c) take measures to ensure that its language laws and policies did not lead to direct or indirect discrimination against persons belonging to minority groups in gaining access to employment; (d) continue to address challenges faced by persons over 50 years of age in gaining access to employment; (e) facilitate access to employment for persons with disabilities, including by adopting temporary special measures such as quotas and creating incentives for employers to employ persons with disabilities and by guaranteeing reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities in the workplace in both the private and public sectors and across all areas of the economy; and (f) consider revising the Labour Law in consultation with social partners in order to ensure that employees' rights were sufficiently protected, including in cases of termination of the employment contract by the employer.³⁰

27. The Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Latvia redouble its efforts to reduce the gender pay gap, ensuring the effective implementation of the principle of equal pay for work of equal value.³¹

28. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Latvia undertake, in consultation with social partners, a periodic review of the minimum wage in

order to index it to the cost of living, thereby ensuring that it enabled workers and their families to enjoy a decent living.³²

8. Right to social security

29. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Latvia: (a) increase its budget allocation for social security; (b) conduct a review of its social security system and ensure that social benefits were regularly indexed to the real cost of living, in order to provide beneficiaries with an adequate standard of living; (c) ensure that the level of the State pension was sufficient to provide beneficiaries with an adequate standard of living and to reduce the prevalence of pensioners at risk of poverty; and (d) increase the minimum level of social benefits in cases of incapacity for work, disability and unemployment, and for old age.³³

9. Right to an adequate standard of living

30. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Latvia: (a) adopt a national action plan to eradicate poverty and address its root causes; and (b) take effective measures to guarantee targeted support to groups who were disproportionately affected by poverty, in particular children, single-parent families, older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants and Roma.³⁴

31. The same Committee recommended increasing the availability of adequate and affordable housing, in particular by expanding the supply of social housing and by expanding the provision of housing subsidies. It further recommended that Latvia address the root causes of homelessness and pursue long-term solutions for homeless individuals.³⁵

10. Right to health

32. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Latvia: (a) increase its public expenditure on healthcare as a percentage of gross domestic product, with a view to progressively achieving the full realization of the right to health; (b) increase the coverage of healthcare services by public expenditure, in order to address the high proportion of out-of-pocket payment by patients; (c) mobilize more resources for the recruitment of doctors and nurses, particularly in public and local hospitals, to decrease the waiting times for accessing specialist care; and (d) ensure the accessibility of healthcare infrastructure, services and information for all, including for persons with disabilities.³⁶

33. The same Committee recommended that Latvia: (a) strengthen its efforts to ensure the availability and accessibility of sexual and reproductive health services and access to affordable, safe and effective contraceptives and emergency contraceptives, including for adolescents; and (b) improve comprehensive, age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health education, including on contraception, for girls and boys in primary and secondary schools.³⁷

34. The same Committee recommended that Latvia increase the availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of professional mental healthcare services. In particular, it should: (a) step up its efforts to transition from the placement of persons requiring mental healthcare services and of persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities in psychiatric institutions towards a comprehensive, integrated, interdisciplinary system of community-based mental health services; and (b) increase the availability of trained medical personnel to provide adequate care to persons requiring mental healthcare and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, including medical personnel specializing in mental health care for children.³⁸

11. Right to education

35. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Latvia: (a) continue to improve the quality of education by allocating sufficient resources to the education sector, increasing the number of qualified teachers and improving infrastructure and teaching materials; (b) guarantee universal access to primary education and firmly address the causes of non-completion and dropout, paying particular attention to disadvantaged and marginalized children; (c) take effective measures to support the completion of secondary and tertiary education, paying particular attention to disadvantaged

and marginalized children; (d) ensure that quality preschool education was accessible to all children across the country, irrespective of the financial status of their families and of the municipality or the region that they were in; (e) as a matter of priority, expedite its efforts to address the overrepresentation of Roma children in special schools and special classes in mainstream schools, which should include a review of the classification criteria and the adoption of inclusive and integrated education programmes; (f) remove legal and administrative barriers to school enrolment for undocumented migrant children and take effective measures to provide them with non-discriminatory access to education; and (g) adopt and implement a coherent strategy on inclusive education to facilitate access by children with disabilities to mainstream schools, supplemented by sufficient human, technical and financial resources, and ensure the provision of accessible and inclusive learning environments, buildings and educational materials and of individualized support.³⁹

36. UNESCO also recommended that Latvia pursue the implementation of measures to support the education and well-being of Ukrainian refugee children.⁴⁰

12. Development, the environment, and business and human rights

37. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Latvia enhance its efforts to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change on economic, social and cultural rights, including by taking measures to achieve its nationally determined contribution under the Paris Agreement and for the implementation of its transition to a net zero greenhouse gas emissions economy by 2050.⁴¹

38. The same Committee recommended that Latvia continue to promote the participation of women in management positions in the private sector.⁴²

B. Rights of specific persons or groups

1. Women

39. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Latvia strengthen its efforts to guarantee gender equality in all spheres of life. In particular, it should continue to address discriminatory attitudes and gender stereotypes in society.⁴³

40. The same Committee recommended that Latvia redouble its efforts to eradicate violence against women and girls. In particular, it should: (a) strengthen the legal framework for the protection of women against all forms of gender-based violence, including domestic and intimate partner violence, as a free-standing criminal offence; (b) improve the collection of data on gender-related killings, or femicide, to enable better insight into motives and typology; and (c) combat societal attitudes that drove gender stereotypes, through public education programmes and community interventions to raise awareness of gender-based violence as a crime and to combat stereotypes that normalized violence against women.⁴⁴

41. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Latvia: (a) establish effective mechanisms and take all measures necessary to facilitate and encourage reporting of gender-based violence, including by providing all women and girls with access to information about their rights, protection measures and remedies, and avoid the social stigmatization and revictimization of any person who sought help; and (b) ensure that victims received effective remedies and measures of protection and assistance, including access to specialized reception centres and shelters throughout the country, and raise awareness about the existence of those remedies and measures.⁴⁵

2. Children

42. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Latvia: (a) enhance the implementation of programmes for the protection of children in street situations and support municipalities in their efforts; (b) support and facilitate family-based care for all children wherever possible, and allocate further resources to expand the system of foster care, and enhance its quality, for children without parental care and children who could not stay with their families; and (c) phase out institutionalization through a concrete plan of action and ensure the periodic review of the quality of alternative care and access to

complaints procedures, including in residential care institutions while those facilities continued to exist.⁴⁶

3. Indigenous Peoples and minorities

43. Special procedure mandate holders considered that the recent legislative changes in Latvia to limit education in the country's minority languages were contrary to human rights standards and could constitute discrimination.⁴⁷ The Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Latvia ensure that language policies and practices did not result in indirect discrimination against linguistic minorities, but rather promoted social inclusion.⁴⁸ The Human Rights Committee also recommended that Latvia monitor the effects on such minorities of the transition to Latvian as the language of instruction and raise awareness about education programmes in minority languages and facilitate their use.⁴⁹ The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights also recommended that the State consider revising its language policies and laws in the area of education in order to promote the teaching of minority languages and teaching in minority languages and to ensure that such policies and laws did not negatively affect the educational performance of children belonging to minority groups.⁵⁰

44. The Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Latvia reinforce its efforts to address discrimination against Roma, ensure equal access to education, healthcare and housing and allocate sufficient resources to poverty reduction strategies targeting the Roma community. It also recommended that Latvia adopt measures to effectively prevent acts of discrimination by public and private actors, intensify efforts to address stereotypes, prejudice, intolerance and systemic discrimination against Roma and ensure that all complaints of discrimination were investigated, perpetrators were prosecuted and, if convicted, punished with appropriate sanctions and that victims had access to full reparation.⁵¹

4. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

45. UNHCR and the Human Rights Committee recommended that Latvia: (a) ensure that persons seeking international protection, irrespective of their mode of arrival and even in times of emergency, were protected from refoulement and had access to asylum procedures; (b) ensure the independent monitoring of border management; and (c) provide adequate training for border control personnel and other relevant officials on international protection of refugees and asylum-seekers, including on the right to seek asylum, the principle of non-refoulement and the identification and referral of persons with specific needs.⁵²

46. UNHCR recommended that Latvia, wherever there were legitimate reasons for detention, consider strengthening alternatives to detention in law and in practice, especially in the situation of survivors of trauma, families with children and unaccompanied children.⁵³ UNHCR and the Human Rights Committee recommended that Latvia ensure that detention of asylum-seekers was imposed only as a measure of last resort and was never applied to children seeking asylum and that legal aid was available to asylum-seekers in detention and during all stages of the asylum application procedure.⁵⁴

47. According to UNHCR, Latvia should: (a) ensure that professional and efficient free legal assistance and representation was available at all stages of the asylum process, including during detention; (b) guarantee the automatic provision of legal aid to asylum-seekers with specific needs, such as individuals with disabilities, victims of trauma and unaccompanied children; and (c) provide unhindered access by UNHCR, non-governmental organizations and the legal partners of UNHCR to persons at the border and detention facilities, in order to deliver assistance and legal counselling.⁵⁵

48. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Latvia develop a strategy for the social and economic integration of asylum-seekers, refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection, which supported their non-discriminatory access to public services and provided targeted support for language learning, securing adequate housing and finding employment. It also recommended that the country take targeted measures to protect them from poverty, and ensure that, when needed, social protection measures were available and sufficient to provide them with an adequate standard of living.⁵⁶

5. Stateless persons

49. UNHCR recommended that Latvia: (a) undertake targeted outreach initiatives and promote the naturalization of eligible non-citizens and recognized stateless persons; (b) amend the Citizenship Act to include provisions for the automatic acquisition of citizenship by children born on the territory of Latvia who would otherwise be stateless; and (c) enhance national legislation to ensure that stateless persons enjoyed the same conditions and fees as nationals when obtaining travel, identity cards and residence permits.⁵⁷

Notes

- ¹ [A/HRC/48/15](#), [A/HRC/48/15/Add.1](#), [A/HRC/48/15/Add.1/Corr.1](#) and [A/HRC/48/2](#).
- ² [E/C.12/LVA/CO/2](#), para. 50; and UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Latvia, para. 31 (v).
- ³ [CCPR/C/LVA/CO/4](#), para. 6.
- ⁴ [E/C.12/LVA/CO/2](#), para. 27.
- ⁵ UNESCO submission, para. 26 (v).
- ⁶ UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Latvia, pp. 8 and 9.
- ⁷ See OHCHR, “UN Human Rights Chief Volker Türk gravely alarmed by steps to withdraw from anti-personnel mine ban convention”, press release, 2 July 2025.
- ⁸ [E/C.12/LVA/CO/2](#), para. 5.
- ⁹ [CCPR/C/LVA/CO/4](#), para. 8. See also Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, general comment No. 20 (2009), para. 7, and [CAT/C/LVA/QPR/7](#), para. 4.
- ¹⁰ [E/C.12/LVA/CO/2](#), para. 13.
- ¹¹ [CCPR/C/LVA/CO/4](#), para. 14.
- ¹² See also [CAT/C/LVA/QPR/7](#), para. 3 (a).
- ¹³ [CCPR/C/LVA/CO/4](#), para. 30.
- ¹⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 24.
- ¹⁵ *Ibid.*, para. 28.
- ¹⁶ See also [CAT/C/LVA/QPR/7](#), para. 2.
- ¹⁷ [CCPR/C/LVA/CO/4](#), para. 26.
- ¹⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 32.
- ¹⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 10.
- ²⁰ *Ibid.*, para. 22 (b) and (d).
- ²¹ *Ibid.*, para. 38.
- ²² *Ibid.*, para. 44.
- ²³ UNESCO submission, paras. 27 and 28.
- ²⁴ [CCPR/C/LVA/CO/4](#), para. 46.
- ²⁵ *Ibid.*, para. 48.
- ²⁶ [E/C.12/LVA/CO/2](#), para. 21.
- ²⁷ UNESCO submission, para. 26 (i).
- ²⁸ [CCPR/C/LVA/CO/4](#), para. 40. See also letter of 4 July 2022 from the Rapporteur on follow-up of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Available at https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCEDAW%2FFUD%2FLVA%2F49087&Lang=en.
- ²⁹ [CCPR/C/LVA/CO/4](#), para. 42.
- ³⁰ [E/C.12/LVA/CO/2](#), para. 23.
- ³¹ [CCPR/C/LVA/CO/4](#), para. 18 (a); and [E/C.12/LVA/CO/2](#), para. 21.
- ³² [E/C.12/LVA/CO/2](#), para. 25.
- ³³ *Ibid.*, para. 29.
- ³⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 33 (a) and (c).
- ³⁵ *Ibid.*, para. 35.
- ³⁶ *Ibid.*, para. 39.
- ³⁷ *Ibid.*, para. 43.
- ³⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 45.
- ³⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 47.
- ⁴⁰ UNESCO submission, para. 26 (iv).
- ⁴¹ [E/C.12/LVA/CO/2](#), para. 11. See also Economic Commission for Europe submission for the universal periodic review of Latvia.
- ⁴² [E/C.12/LVA/CO/2](#), para. 21.
- ⁴³ [CCPR/C/LVA/CO/4](#), para. 18 (b).
- ⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 20.
- ⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, para. 22 (a) and (c).

⁴⁶ [E/C.12/LVA/CO/2](#), para. 31.

⁴⁷ See OHCHR, “Latvia: UN experts concerned about severe curtailment of minority language education”, press release, 8 February 2023.

⁴⁸ [CCPR/C/LVA/CO/4](#), para. 48; and [E/C.12/LVA/CO/2](#), para. 49.

⁴⁹ [CCPR/C/LVA/CO/4](#), para. 48.

⁵⁰ [E/C.12/LVA/CO/2](#), para. 49.

⁵¹ [CCPR/C/LVA/CO/4](#), para. 12; and [E/C.12/LVA/CO/2](#), para. 15.

⁵² UNHCR submission, p. 4; and [CCPR/C/LVA/CO/4](#), para. 34 (a)–(c).

⁵³ UNHCR submission, p. 5.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 6; and [CCPR/C/LVA/CO/4](#), para. 34 (d).

⁵⁵ UNHCR submission, p. 6.

⁵⁶ [E/C.12/LVA/CO/2](#), para. 19.

⁵⁷ UNHCR submission, p. 8. See also [CCPR/C/LVA/CO/4](#), para. 36; and [E/C.12/LVA/CO/2](#), para. 17.