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**Universal Periodic Review of FINLAND, 23 May 2012
Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Estonia warmly welcomes the high level delegation of Finland to the 13th session of the UPR and thanks them for the presentation of the national report. We are glad to note that this report has been prepared as the result of extensive dialogue with civil society and various other stakeholders.

Estonia recognizes that human rights are an important part of Finnish domestic policy and an essential dimension of Finland's foreign policy. Finland is currently working towards a comprehensive Human Rights Action Plan that sets national priorities, maps interest groups, and lists the concrete measures that the government is going to undertake. Such a plan could, in our view, be an international benchmark for protecting human rights. We would also like to stress Finland's role as an international aid donor and the fact that human rights with an emphasis on gender rights, social inclusion, and climate are at the centre of its development co-operation programmes.

Furthermore, Estonia notes with appreciation that Finland has become part of nearly all the main international human rights instruments and is fully cooperating with the special procedures of the UN Human Rights Council as well as with treaty bodies. Finland has also been successful in implementing the recommendations made during the previous cycle of UPR. We particularly welcome the measures related to violence and mistreatment against vulnerable groups in society. Finland has developed a comprehensive programmes aimed at the prevention of violence against women and an action plan for combating disciplinary violence with child protection at its core. We commend further efforts in the pipeline such as changing the legal base for social services in order to make assistance for victims available to all and the creation of a special shelter for abused children. We also encourage Finland to continue their work in tackling the rise of hate speech in public fora.

Finally, we recommend that Finland proceed swiftly with the ratification of First Optional Protocol to the CRC and OP CAT.

Thank you.