



**Universal Periodic Review of POLAND, 30 May 2012
Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Estonia warmly welcomes the high level delegation of Poland to the 13th session of the UPR.

Estonia commends Poland for implementing the policy suggestions made during the previous review in 2008, particularly in three areas. First, the Polish government has increased the role and the capacity of the children's ombudsman thus improving children's rights. Secondly, Poland has raised the public awareness on the benefits of gender equality, which has led to the advancement of women's rights in the labour market. We encourage the government to continue its good work, inter alia in the area of combating domestic violence and human trafficking. Thirdly, Poland's achievements in the area of improving prison conditions have been remarkable. The Government has adopted a number of measures and nation-wide programmes to solve the problem of overcrowding in prisons and to improve the conditions in correctional facilities. Efforts have been made to ensure that inmates are evenly accommodated in detention facilities throughout the country and various new types of alternative punishment to imprisonment have been introduced.

Furthermore, Estonia would like to recognize Poland for their commitment to the freedom of expression. Poland has liberalized the legislation on libel and slander and reduced the maximum sentences for those offences. In this context, we also welcome the public campaigns of Polish government against incitement to hatred based on ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation.

Finally, we note positively that Poland is a party to 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. We recommend Poland to ratify Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR and swiftly finalize the ratification of CRPD and its Optional Protocol.

Thank you.