

Universal Periodic Review of UKRAINE Intervention by the delegation of Estonia, 24 October 2012

Estonia warmly welcomes the delegation of Ukraine to the 14th session of the UPR. We thank Ukraine for their work in preparing the report presented earlier and also for the additional information given in the opening speech. We acknowledge that the authorities have prepared a detailed national report reflecting the human rights situation and the steps taken. In that respect, we encourage Ukraine to continue and strengthen the dialogue with civil society.

Estonia notes with appreciation that Ukraine has become part of the majority of international human rights instruments. We call for continuous cooperation with the special procedures of the UN Human Rights Council as well with its treaty bodies.

We welcome that Ukraine has adopted the Access to Public Information Act. Estonia encourages Ukraine to respect and protect freedom of expression and not to adopt restrictive laws in this regard. We also call on Ukraine to guarantee freedom of assembly by adopting a new law in harmony with the international standards.

We welcome that Ukraine has adopted the new Criminal Procedure Code and look forward to its genuine implementation. We commend Ukraine for approving a juvenile justice system plan and look forward to its implementation in order to establish a child-friendly judiciary system.

Estonia welcomes the adoption of the Refugees and Persons Requiring Subsidiary or Temporary Protection Act in Ukraine, thus making a considerable step closer to compliance with European standards. Nevertheless, we still note deficiencies in the law and invite Ukraine to further elaborate it.

Estonia would like to make the following recommendations:

- First, to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), and to fully align its national legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statute;
- Second, in the realm of the new Criminal Procedure Code to establish an independent mechanism for the investigation of alleged cases of torture by officers of law enforcement agencies independent from the Ministry of the Interior and the Prosecutor's Office.

Thank You.