



Universal Periodic Review of BARBADOS, 25 January 2013
Intervention by the delegation of Estonia

Estonia extends its warm welcome to the high level delegation of Barbados at the 15th session of the UPR and we thank them for the comprehensive presentation today. We would like to highlight that the drafting of the national report was done in close consultations with many stakeholders.

We congratulate Barbados for improving its human rights records during the last few years and we invite them to take the remaining challenges very seriously. The government has shown its commitment to promoting and protecting human rights in the country. In 2010 the Human Rights Unit was established in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade. Despite some staffing difficulties, the possibility to continue has been found thanks to close cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights by appointment of the Human Rights Adviser to the UN Office in Barbados. We do hope that this engagement will continue and grow more fruitful. We commend Barbados for hosting the visit of High Commissioner for Human Rights last year.

We recognize the content in the Constitution of Barbados relating to fundamental rights and freedoms and reflecting political and civil rights but we would like to note that there is a need for a revision inter alia to include the concept of discrimination on any grounds being prohibited.

We are very pleased to see the growing attention being paid to women's issues in society. Cooperation with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) will help create awareness of the importance of the protection of women. A common project working towards the ratification of the ILO Convention number 189 is certainly very beneficial to Barbados in terms of the protection of the human rights of the people concerned. We are glad to note that Barbados is looking for technical assistance to build its capacity for CEDAW reporting; meanwhile there are many other reports overdue as well.

We invite the Government of Barbados to continue to combat violence against women and to hold dialogues with relevant stakeholders. Estonia commends the Government for its contribution to the women's shelters established by civil society organizations. We encourage Barbados to take further steps in protecting and promoting women's rights.

Estonia would like to make the following **recommendations**:

- We recommend that Barbados provide human rights education, including related to sexual orientation and gender identity, to all law enforcement officials.
- We recommend that Barbados ratify the Convention against Torture (CAT) as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT).
- We recommend that Barbados accede to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court.

Thank you.