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**Universal Periodic Review of FRANCE, 21 January 2013
Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Estonia warmly welcomes the delegation of France headed by to the UPR's 15th session. We thank France for their work in preparing the report presented earlier and also for the additional information given in the opening speech. We are glad to note that as a result of the extensive dialogue with representatives of civil society and various other stakeholders, the French authorities have prepared a detailed national report which objectively reflects the human rights situation in the country.

Estonia notes with appreciation that France has become 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.

Estonia recognizes that human rights are an important part of France's domestic policies in all its geographical regions. Human rights issues are an essential dimension in its foreign policy. Since the last review, France has made progress in many human rights areas and implemented most of the recommendations.

Estonia welcomes the ratification of the CRPD (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) and its Optional Protocol. France has adopted a national action plan to implement UNSCR 1325, which was developed consulting with civil society and the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights.

We acknowledge the grand efforts of France in the area of gender equality and women's rights, specially the establishing of the Ministry of Women's Rights (*Ministère des Droits des Femmes*) in May 2012. Estonia commends France's strong commitment to women's rights in the world, including sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Finally, Estonia very warmly notes the active participation of France in the Freedom Online Coalition in global fora and active support and assistance in the implementation of the ICC's mandate.

Thank you!