



## **Universal Periodic Review of ROMANIA, 22 January 2013 Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Estonia warmly welcomes the delegation of Romania headed by ... to the UPR's 15th session. We thank Romania for its work in preparing the report presented earlier and also for the additional information given in the opening statement.

Estonia notes that Romania's national report reflects the developments in the human rights situation in the country since its first review in 2008. We are glad to remark that the report was prepared with the extensive involvement of non-governmental organizations.

Since the first cycle of the UPR Romania has taken a number of positive steps to implement the previous recommendations. We note positively the ratifications of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT).

As regards improvements in legal acts, my delegation particularly welcomes the adoption and implementation of amendments in legislation related to women's rights, which provide more protection for the victims of domestic violence. Progress has also been made in the protection of children's rights, such as the new law on education adopted in 2011, which aims to improve the quality and access to education.

Estonia warmly notes that Romania has undertaken a number of cooperation initiatives and awareness-raising programmes on gender equality and the protection of LGBT rights; we recommend that Romania intensify its efforts in this regard even further. In this context, we also welcome Romania's activities against incitement to hatred based on ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation.

Furthermore, as a country paying special attention to freedom of expression and conscience, we're happy to note the promotion of "the defence of freedom and fundamental rights and inter-religious dialogue" and commitments to the freedom of expression.

During its first UPR in 2008, Romania introduced its initiative to start work on the comprehensive National Plan of Action for Human Rights (NAP) with annual reviews; we would kindly ask Romania to elaborate on the state of play of the preparation of such a Plan of Action.

Finally, we also commend Romania for presenting the voluntary mid-term report on the progress of implementation of UPR recommendations in 2010.

We would like to wish to the delegation of Romania a successful review meeting.

Thank you!