

**Universal Periodic Review of SERBIA, 30 January 2013****Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

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

We are glad to note that the report of Serbia has been prepared with the involvement of non-governmental organizations. Serbia has taken a number of positive steps to implement the recommendations received in the first UPR cycle. We note positively the numerous improvements in domestic legislation and institutional framework.

Estonia acknowledges the progress Serbia has made in judicial reform by implementing the National Judicial Reform Strategy and, among others, adopting the laws on Judges, Law on High Judicial Council, and Law on Constitutional Court. As corruption is considered a hindrance to the realization of human rights, we encourage Serbia to actively implement the new Anti-Corruption Strategy.

We note with satisfaction that Serbia has undertaken a number of legal and strategic initiatives and awareness-raising programs to fight discrimination based on ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation. We recommend that Serbia continue its efforts in this regard even further.

My delegation welcomes the fact that Serbia has accepted the competence of several UN treaty bodies to consider individual communications.

Estonia would like to recommend to the Government of Serbia:

- to ratify Additional Protocol III to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949.
- to continue active and close co-operation with UN treaty bodies.
- to strengthen the protection of journalists, media personnel, and human rights defenders against the attacks and prosecute those responsible for such kind of attempts.

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

Thank you.