

Universal Periodic Review of the RUSSIAN FEDERATION, 29 April 2013

Intervention by the delegation of Estonia

Estonia welcomes the delegation of the Russian Federation headed by (*täidab esindus Genfis*) to the UPR's 16th session. We thank Russia 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 this light, we encourage Russia to continue and strengthen the dialogue with the civil society and various other interested stakeholders.

Estonia notes with appreciation that Russia has become a party to nearly all of the core international human rights instruments.

While acknowledging Russia's progress in some aspects compared to the previous UPR in 2009, Estonia still notes some deficiencies and would like to make the following recommendations to the Government of the Russian Federation:

- **to fully ensure everyone's right to exercise freedom of expression**, including internet freedom, to strengthen the dialogue with civil society and to respect the rights of NGOs by eliminating all the restrictive impediments;
- **to improve the precarious situation of indigenous peoples**, particularly by stepping up efforts to guarantee their right to education including in their own languages; unrestricted use of their lands and territories; address the problem of underrepresentation in State institutions at the federal and regional levels and follow other principles enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- **to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the ICC**, and to fully align its national legislation with all the obligations under the Statute;
- **to ratify the optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.**

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

Thank you