

Universal Periodic Review of the ERITREA, 03 February 2014
Intervention by the delegation of Estonia

Estonia warmly welcomes the delegation of Eritrea. We thank Eritrea for the report and also for the information shared with us today.

While noting a few positive steps taken since the last UPR the implementation of the recommendations in general has not been up to our expectations. Estonia urges the government of Eritrea to commit changing the grave human rights situation for the better by fully implementing the recommendations of the last review, including by fully cooperating with the UN Special procedures.

Estonia notes with appreciation Eritrea's signature to the Rome Statute already in 1998 and encourages further ratifying the Statute in the nearest future.

Estonia recognizes the progress made in the area of women's rights, most notably sexual rights. We call on the government to intensify its efforts and allocate adequate resources to the respective administrative structures, including in order to achieve total elimination of the FGM practice as well as forced and early marriage.

We are specifically concerned of the disregard of freedom of expression, including internet freedom and freedom of peaceful association and assembly and invite the authorities of Eritrea to ensure those rights.

Estonia would like to make the following **four recommendations** (as a repetition from the first cycle):

- to lift all the restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression and of the press, including internet freedom and to fully implement its obligations in accordance with ICCPR;
- to withdraw existing reservations to ICCPR and to ratify the both ICCPR **Optional Protocols**;
- to ratify **the Rome Statute of the ICC (International Criminal Court)**;
- to ratify the **CAT (Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment)** and its **Optional Protocol**.

Estonia wishes to the delegation of Eritrea a successful review meeting.

Thank you!