**Universal Periodic Review of the Republic of Nicaragua**

**7 May 2014**

**Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Estonia warmly welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Nicaragua to its second UPR. We thank Nicaragua for their work in preparing the national report and for the additional information provided today.

We commend the steps Nicaragua has taken to implement its previous UPR recommendations, including the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (OP-CRPD) in 2010. We call on the Government to step up its cooperation with human rights treaty bodies.

Estonia notes that Nicaragua has made progress in promoting women rights, including ensuring a high number of women in ministerial and legislative positions. We encourage the Government to step up its efforts to fight domestic and gender-based violence, and further call on the Government to decriminalise abortion.

While recognising Nicaragua for its increasing attention on children´s rights and education issues, we encourage the Government to continue these efforts, especially to reduce school drop-out rate and to diminish adolescent pregnancies.

We further remain concerned about the freedom of expression and opinion in the country, including freedom of the press and internet freedom. Estonia encourages Nicaragua’s authorities to ensure positive developments in the aforementioned areas, to respect and protect the rights of journalists, bloggers and human rights defenders.

Estonia would like to make the following recommendations to the Government of Nicaragua:

* to enhance cooperation and involvement of indigenous people in decision making and to take measures to encourage their participation in public and political life;
* to establish sustainable and effective centers where women whose rights have been violated and who have been victims of abuse and violence, can go and find support;
* to accede to the Rome Statue of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (APIC).

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

Thank You!