**Universal Periodic Review of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

**30 October 2014**

**Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Estonia warmly welcomes the high level delegation of **the Republic of Kazakhstan.** We thank Kazakhstan for the report and also for the additional information given in the opening speech.

Estonia commends Kazakhstan for its open and cooperative attitude and readiness to discuss human rights issues. We would like to encourage Kazakhstan to continue to enhance its cooperation with special procedures, as well as with human rights mechanisms and treaty bodies.

Estonia notes the steps taken by Kazakhstan to reform its legislation and judicial system and to implement the recommendations of the previous UPR cycle, however, many of them remain unfulfilled.

Estonia remains concerned with regard to guaranteeing fundamental rights and freedoms*, inter alia* the freedom of expression online/offline, the freedom of religion or belief, and the freedom of assembly. With this regard we would like to invite Kazakhstan to fully implement the relevant 1st cycle recommendations accepted by Kazakhstan.

Acknowledging the Kazakh authorities’ engagement with civil society we encourage Kazakhstan to ease restrictions on civil society organisations and to refrain from adopting any legislation that would impose penalties on NGOs that receive foreign funding.

Estonia acknowledges the progress made in the field of gender equality and women’s rights and in fighting against human trafficking. We invite the Kazakh Government to pay more attention to the violence against women and children, including by raising public awareness.

Estonia would like to repeat some of the 1st cycle recommendations and **recommend:**

- to ratify the **Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC**) and the **Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the ICC.**

- **to ensure freedom of expression online/offline, including media freedom**, by repealing or amending the Criminal Code of Kazakhstan to be compatible with international human rights law.

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

Thank you!