



**Universal Periodic Review of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau**  
**23 January 2015**  
**Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Estonia warmly welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau headed by (*delegatsiooni juhi nimi, täidab Esindus Genfis*) to the UPR's 21st session.

Estonia commends the authorities of Guinea-Bissau for the ratification of a number of international human rights instruments, amongst others ICCPR and the optional protocols and CAT. The internal implementation of these instruments is of key importance. Estonia encourages Guinea-Bissau to continue efforts to become part of all the main international human rights instruments.

- Estonia would like to **recommend** to ratify and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and accede to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (APIC)

We note the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the 1<sup>st</sup> UPR, including criminalizing female genital mutilation (FMG), the passage of the Domestic Violence Act (February 2014) and the adoption of legislation on human trafficking (July 2011).

However, we are deeply concerned that ritual murders as well as traditional harmful practices continue to occur and therefore we strongly urge the authorities of Guinea-Bissau to step up its efforts in eradicating these practices.

Estonia is also concerned of high illiteracy and low school attendance rates as well as poor access to primary education. We are particularly concerned of the existence of discrimination against certain groups of children and especially of the situation of girls who are subjected to multiple forms of gender-based discrimination.

Estonia would like to highlight the need to introduce a freedom of information law in accordance with international standards, develop self-regulatory mechanism of the media and strengthen professional standards of journalism in the country.

Estonia would like to **recommend** to the Government of Guinea-Bissau:

- to ensure free primary education for all without any discrimination, including by increasing funding for education;
- to take concrete measures to combat discrimination against all children, including by creating a specific comprehensive strategy to eliminate negative attitudes and practices that discriminate against girls and encourage girls to attend school.

We would like to wish the delegation of Guinea-Bissau a successful review meeting.

Thank you!