

Universal Periodic Review of the Principality of Andorra
7 May 2015
Intervention by the delegation of Estonia

Estonia very warmly welcomes the high level delegation of the **Principality of Andorra** to the UPR's 22nd session. We thank Andorra for the detailed report, which has been prepared with the engagement of civil society and thus truly reflects the human rights situation in the country.

Estonia notes with appreciation that Andorra has become a party to nearly all the core international human rights instruments and stands ready to fully cooperate with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council through the standing invitation.

Since the last UPR, Andorra has made progress in the area of human rights. Among others, we commend the ratifications by Andorra of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CPRD) and its Optional Protocol (OP-CPRD).

Andorra has made valuable progress in the areas of children's and women's rights, including ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. Estonia welcomes the establishment of the National Equality Commission in 2010 to address anti-discrimination issues and the National Plan of Action for Equality. With regard to children's rights we would further on call Andorra's authorities for an explicit prohibition of corporal punishment of children.

We encourage Andorra to continue taking all necessary measures to protect the rights of children and women in Andorra.

Estonia notes with appreciation the fact that despite the difficult economic situation, budget appropriations for the Ministry of Health and Welfare and the Ministry of Education and Youth have been maintained at the same level in recent years in order to help families and vulnerable groups to better cope.

Estonia would like to recommend to the Government of Andorra:

- To fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), in particular by incorporating provisions to cooperate promptly and fully with the ICC
- To decriminalize defamation, currently in the Criminal Code, and place it within the civil code in accordance with international standards

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

Thank you!