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Universal Periodic Review of the Republic of Liberia  
4 May 2015

Intervention by the delegation of Estonia

Estonia warmly welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Liberia.

We are glad to note that as a result of dialogue with representatives of civil society, the authorities have prepared a detailed national report which reflects the human rights situation in the country.

Estonia acknowledges that Liberia has had to face challenging times recently with the *Ebola* epidemic ravaging the country. Estonia notes that despite the challenges Liberia has made progress.

We commend Liberia for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Estonia encourages the Republic of Liberia to continue efforts to become part of all the main international human rights instruments. Hereby we stress that the implementation of the adopted laws and the full alignment of its national legislation with the international obligations without unnecessary delay is of key importance.

We also commend Liberia for having launched the Strategic Roadmap for National Healing, Peacebuilding and Reconciliation in December 2012 and also for the National Human Rights Action Plan, launched in December 2013 and look forward to their effective implementation.

Estonia is deeply concerned that child rape and sexual offences were among the most commonly reported crimes in Liberia and that a high number of cases were settled out of court. We urge Liberia to enforce domestic laws that protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation and to effectively investigate all cases.

Estonia would like to recommend to the Government of Liberia:

- To ratify the first and the second **Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (OP-CRC-AC)** and on the **Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (OP-CRC-SC)**
- To intensify efforts to ensure **gender equality** and eliminate **gender-based violence**, including sexual violence and harmful traditional practices;

To fully align its national legislation with the **Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC)**, including by incorporating provisions to cooperate promptly and fully with the International Criminal Court and investigate and prosecute genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes effectively before its national courts.

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

Thank you!