**Universal Periodic Review of LEBANON**

**2 November 2015**

**Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Estonia warmly welcomes the delegation of the Lebanese Republic to the UPR’s 23rd session. We thank Lebanon for their work in preparing the national report through extensive dialogue with representatives of civil society, presented earlier, and also for the additional information given in the opening speech.

We would like to encourage Lebanese authorities to continue efforts to become part of all the main international human rights instruments and continue to cooperate with the special procedures of the UN Human Rights Council, as well as with treaty bodies.

Estonia notes with appreciation the efforts made by Lebanon in order to improve the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms while accommodating over a million Syrian refugees, who affect the functioning of the country and for whom the most basic of human rights – the right to life – is often at stake. Estonia has supported the humanitarian situation of Syrian refugees in Lebanon with 270 000 EUR via UNICEF and World Food Programme and remains engaged in this matter.

With regard to freedom of expression we call on Lebanese authorities to investigate all attacks against journalists and media workers and to ensure full implementation of the rule of law.

Estonia commends the adoption of the Law on Protection of Women and Other Family Members from Domestic Violence in 2014, but we note that it does not protect children from corporal punishment.

We invite Lebanese authorities to continue and progressively implement free, compulsory and quality education for all children up to the age of 15.

Estonia would like to make **the following recommendations**:

* to ratify **the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict** (OP-CRC-AC) (which was signed in 2002);
* to prohibit all corporal punishment of children, including in the home and all other settings, and explicitly repeal the right to discipline children according to “general custom” in the Penal Code;
* to accede and fully align its national legislation with the **Rome Statute of the ICC (International Criminal Court)**, including by incorporating provisions to cooperate promptly and fully with the ICC and to investigate and prosecute genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes effectively before its national courts, and accede to **the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the Court** (APIC).

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

Thank you!