**Universal Periodical Review of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

**6 November 2015**

**Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Estonia warmly welcomes the delegation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the UPR’s 23rd session. We thank Myanmar for their work in preparing the report and also for the additional information provided in the opening speech. Estonia notes with appreciation Myanmar’s efforts to implement the recommendations from the last UPR session in 2011.

We commend the Government of Myanmar for becoming a state party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (**CRPD**) in December 2011 and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (**OP-CRC-SC**) on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography in January 2012. Estonia also commends the adoption of the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women for 2013-2022 and urges its steady implementation.

Estonia acknowledges the important steps Myanmar has taken in the country’s democratization process since adopting the Constitution in 2008. We congratulate the Government of Myanmar and all the parties for the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement on October 16, which marks an important milestone in advancing national reconciliation and the reform process in the country. We hope the groups that were not part of the deal, will be able to adhere to it soon. We would like to address all parties to protect the civilian population against violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law and for safe, timely, rapid and unimpeded humanitarian access to be granted to all areas. Estonia welcomes and supports the decision to hold historic elections on November 8th and expects they will be conducted in a credible, inclusive and transparent manner, in order to strengthen the foundations of multi-ethnic democracy in the country. We would like to see women more engaged in all societal processes including their active participation in the upcoming elections.

We have noted Myanmar’s efforts in promoting and protecting human rights. We believe the formation of the National Human Rights Commission in 2011 is a positive step, yet we encourage Myanmar to ensure that it is able to fully discharge its functions. We would like to call on authorities to end all discrimination in law, policy and practice against women and girls, minorities and all vulnerable groups. We also encourage Myanmar to follow up on the invitation for OHCHR to establish a full mandate country office.

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

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

- to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (**ICCPR**) and its two optional protocols (**ICCPR-OP1/OP2**);

- to remove the broad range of restrictions on the rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression in the **Law on the Right to Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession**, replace the system of prior authorization for peaceful assemblies with a system of voluntary notification and remove criminal sanctions for acts protected under international standards on freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

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

Thank you!