**Universal Periodic Review of the Sultanate of Oman**

**5 November, 2015**

**Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Estonia warmly welcomes the delegation of the Sultanate of Oman to its second UPR. We thank Oman for the work in preparing the report presented and also for the additional information given in the opening speech.

Estonia would like to commend the Government of Oman for the withdrawal of most of the reservations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). We encourage the Government to continue its efforts to become party to all the main international human rights instruments and cooperate with the special procedures of the UN Human Rights Council, including by issuing a standing invitation.

Estonia notes with appreciation the cooperation of Oman with the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of peaceful assembly & of association in relation to the Special Rapporteur's country visit to Oman in September 2014. We encourage Oman to fulfill the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur, including the call for guaranteeing the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association in law and refrain from criminalising persons for exercising this right.

We are concerned that there is no explicit prohibition of *de jure* and *de facto* discrimination against women in all areas of life in Oman legislation, and that equality between women and men was limited to the area of public rights and did not extend to the private-sphere relations of family and marriage.

Estonia positively notes the fact that the Basic Law of Oman declares all citizens equal and bans gender-based discrimination. Estonia also notes with appreciation the advancement in the inclusion of women and girls to the educational system in Oman. We would like to call on Oman to promote the rights of women to freely associate, and to enable women to participate more effectively in public life and on equal grounds in private life.

We further encourage Oman to take more steps to prevent gender based discrimination in practice. Estonia would like to call on Oman to amend its national legislation to clearly prohibit discrimination and violence against women and promote equality of genders in the public, as well as the private sphere.

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

* to ratify and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), and to accede to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (APIC);
* to guarantee in law and in practice the freedom of peaceful assembly and of association and to remove all restrictions placed on the right to peaceful protests;
* to withdraw the remaining reservations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and to the optional protocols to the convention ratified by Oman (OP-CRC-AC and OP-CRC-SC), and to explicitly prohibit all corporal punishment of children in all settings, including the home.

Estonia wishes Oman success in its UPR.

Thank you.