

Universal Periodic Review 24 – Estonia

Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Thank you Mr. President,

The Netherlands thanks Estonia for its report [and for addressing our advance questions]. The Netherlands appreciates Estonia's active role in the protection and promotion of human rights, both at home and abroad.

We commend the overall high level of Estonia's democracy and note in particular the key role played by Estonia in the field of press and internet freedom. The Netherlands also welcomes recent institutional developments for the further protection and promotion of human rights, such as the set up of the Gender Equality Council. The Netherlands appreciates the government's active role in the implementation of the Equal Treatment Act and encourages Estonia to continue its efforts to tackle discrimination on all grounds.

Mr President,

The Netherlands recommends Estonia to:

1. Firstly, adopt a National Action Plan to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.
2. Secondly, adopt the necessary implementation legislation for the Civil Partnership Act.

Mr President, we provide recommendations based on the following considerations:

Firstly, the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights has recommended countries to adopt National Action Plans for implementation of the Guiding Principles. The Netherlands is willing to share our experiences with Estonia in this regard.

Secondly, the Netherlands commends Estonia for adopting the Civil Partnership Act, which grants legal protection to families regardless of its composition. However, not all the necessary implementation legislation has been passed, in order to grant full effectiveness of the Act.

Thank you, Mr. President.