**UN Human Rights Council**

**UPR 24th Session**

**Statement made by the United Arab Emirates in the Interactive Dialogue with**

**Estonia**

*Delivered by H.E. Obaid Salem AL ZAABI,*

*Ambassador/Permanent Representative of UAE*

*Geneva, 19 January 2016*

Mr. President,

We would like to express our appreciation to the delegation of Estonia for its presentation. We recognize Estonia’s commitment to human rights and its many achievements. In particular, we praise the establishment of a Gender Equality Council and measures to address the gender pay gap and to promote gender equality in education.

We are concerned at reports of religious and racial discrimination and Islamophobia.

The UAE recommends that Estonia:

1. Take further measures to prevent trafficking in persons in investigating and prosecuting offenders and provide effective support and redress to victims, as well as step up efforts to raise awareness about human trafficking.
2. Strengthen laws prohibiting religious and racial discrimination, and criminalizing hate speech and incitement to religious and racial hatred.

**Thank you Mr. President.**

49/1:40mn

**Mme. Marina Kaljurand , Ministre des Affaires Etrangeres**