



Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 24rd Session
Universal Periodic Review of the Republic of Estonia
Statement by Australia

Australia welcomes the delegation from the Republic of Estonia and appreciates its continued constructive engagement in the Universal Periodic Review process.

We commend the Government of Estonia for steps taken to implement reforms to which it committed during the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review in 2011. These include the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol and the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

Australia also commends Estonia's passing of the Co-habitation Act which extends the rights of married couples to unmarried persons, including same-sex couples.

We welcome initiatives implemented by the Government of Estonia to reduce child statelessness, including amendments to Estonia's Citizenship Law to simplify naturalisation requirements for several categories of people, including children.

Australia recommends Estonia ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (1954) and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (1961).

Australia recommends that Estonia establish a National Human Rights Institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles.

