

UPR – ESTONIA – 19 January 2016

STATEMENT by BULGARIA

Thank you, Mr. President!

Bulgaria warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Estonia.

We would like to thank Estonia for the comprehensive national report underscoring the progress on the implementation of a number of recommendations, as well as some challenges in the context of the efforts to promote and protect human rights.

The Bulgarian delegation notes with appreciation the fact that since the first UPR in 2011, Estonia has become party to several international human rights mechanisms with no any submitted reservations.

We appreciate that in line with the recommendations Estonia created the position of Ombudsman for Children and has established the Gender Equality Council set forth in the Gender Equality Act and functioning as an advisory body to the government.

Bulgaria would like to address the following recommendations to the delegation of Estonia:

- to establish national institution for the protection of human rights in accordance with the Paris Principles;
- to develop and adopt legislation that would recognize explicitly hatred on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity as a motive and make it an aggravated circumstance in a crime
- to ratify without reservations the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and opt-in to the inquiry and inter-state procedures;

We would like to wish the delegation of Estonia a successful review session.

Thank you.