**Universal Periodic Review of the Republic of Namibia**

**18 January 2016**

**Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Estonia warmly welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Namibia to its second UPR.

We acknowledge Namibia’s advances in its international human rights commitments and call on the authorities to issue a standing invitation to all UN Special Procedures mandate holders.

Estonia welcomes the initiatives of the Government of Namibia in the fight against poverty, improving access to safe drinking water, sanitation, schools and health facilities. We would like to note the importance of the Namibian policy of promoting and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples, especially to improve their further well-being. As the indigenous peoples depend on land and its natural resources, in the case of resettlement the Namibian Government should provide indigenous peoples with support for adequate lands and the rebuilding of their communities.

We would like to stress that education is the most powerful tool to exercise one's human rights; it empowers individuals to strive towards more democratic societies and tackle poverty. Estonia considers it necessary to put further effort and attention into expanding the program on vocational education and introduce human rights education in schools. Estonia further calls on Namibia to eliminate disparities between urban and rural areas in terms of access to education and to ensure the accessibility of quality education for all children.

We also call on Namibia to decriminalize defamation, and encourage Namibia to adopt an all-encompassing freedom of information legislation in accordance with international standards.

Estonia **recommends** to the Government of Namibia:

- to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (**OP-CAT**);

- to prohibit **all corporal punishment** of children, including in the home;

*-* to ratify the **Kampala amendments** to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Estonia wishes the delegation of Namibia a successful review meeting.

Thank you!