

**Universal Periodic Review of the Solomon Islands**  
**25 January 2016**  
**Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Estonia warmly welcomes the delegation of the Solomon Islands to its 2<sup>nd</sup> UPR, and commends them on the completion of the national report and its presentation today.

Estonia would like to encourage the Government to continue its efforts to become party to all core international human rights instruments, and to cooperate fully with the UN special procedures, as well as with treaty bodies. In this context we commend the Solomon Islands for the ratification of a number of fundamental International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions.

While acknowledging the difficulties in terms of resources and administration the Small Island Developing State is facing, we encourage the Solomon Islands to take further steps towards the full and effective implementation of the ratified treaties and their incorporation into domestic law.

We would like to note that the human rights agenda has become more important in the domestic policy of the Solomon Islands. We acknowledge the efforts of the Government to implement recommendations from the previous review. Among the several new laws the Child and Family Welfare Bill (2013) and The Family Protection Act (2014) stand out as relevant for the improvement of protection of the rights of women and children.

Estonia encourages the effective implementation of the National Strategy for the Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls, endorsed by the Cabinet in August 2015, as well as the formerly adapted policies on Gender Equality and Women's Development, and on Ending Violence against Women to increase gender equality.

Estonia hopes that the broad stakeholders' consultations regarding the current Federal Draft Constitution (2014) will lead to a better reflection of international human rights principles in the Basic Law, including the principles of equality and non-discrimination.

Estonia would like to make the following **recommendations** to the Government of the Solomon Islands:

- to ratify the **Rome Statute** of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and accede to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the Court (APIC);
- to prohibit **corporal punishment** of children in all settings, including in the home;
- to introduce **freedom of information legislation** in compliance with international standards.

We wish the delegation of the Solomon Islands a successful review.

Thank you!