**Universal Periodic Review of the Federal Republic of Somalia**

**22 January 2016**

**Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Estonia welcomes the delegation of the Federal Republic of Somalia to its second UPR.

Estonia would like to encourage Somalia to continue its efforts to become a party to all of the the main international human rights instruments, and to issue a standing invitation to UN Special Procedures mandate holders, and fully cooperate with the UN’s Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia. Estonia would like to call for enhanced cooperation between the authorities, civil society and the Somali public, which is crucial in order to improve the human rights situation in the country.

We would like to commend Somalia on a number of steps taken since the previous UPR, such as the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the establishment of the Puntland Office of the Human Rights Defender. Estonia notes with satisfaction that the Somali Federal Parliament has taken commitment to enact a variety of legislation in 2016, including the National Human Rights Bill and the Sexual Offences Bill.

At the same time, Estonia is worried that acts of sexual violence continue to be committed against internally displaced (IDP) women and girls, including in settlements in Mogadishu and surrounding areas; in some cases, the victims have been subjected to repeated and systematic sexual violence. Women and young girls face double victimization because, after being violated, they often have no effective justice and support system to turn to.

We express our concern over the fact that sexual violence has continued to be underreported, impunity is widespread, and access to formal justice, especially in rural areas, is extremely limited. Estonia would like to point out that all victims of violations of human rights or of international humanitarian law have a right to obtain remedy and reparation and civilians should not be subject to military jurisdiction.

Estonia considers it necessary for Somalia to put further effort to the protection of journalists, media workers and media company owners. Journalists and media workers still continued to receive threats to their lives, including from Al-Shabaab, and to suffer intimidation, arbitrary arrest and detention.

Estonia would like **to recommend** to the Federal Government of Somalia:

- to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (**ICC**);

- to ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the **Crime of Genocide**;

- to ratify the optional protocols of the **CRC on Children in Armed Conflict (OP-CRC-AC) and on the Sale of Children (OP-CRC-SC)**, and explicitly to prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings, including the home;

- adopt an **information law** in conformity with international standards, and **secure the defense of journalists**, media personnel and media company owners against attacks and prosecute those responsible for such attempts.

Estonia wishes the delegation of Somalia a successful review meeting. Thank you!