**Universal Periodical Review of the Republic of Iceland**

**1st November 2016**

**Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Mr President

Estonia warmly welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Iceland to its second UPR. We thank Iceland for their report and information provided in the presentation today.

Estonia notes with appreciation that Iceland has become party to the majority of international human rights instruments and is fully cooperating with the special procedures of the UN Human Rights Council as well as with treaty bodies.

We welcome the Government’s ongoing commitment to keeping gender equality, the promotion of women’s rights, women’s empowerment, their participation in decision-making, and combating violence against women as a priority in the human rights policy. Estonia would like to commend Iceland’s efforts for taking further steps in dealing with the cases of domestic violence, and paying attention to the issue of violence against persons with disabilities, especially women. We positively note Island’s ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) this year.

We also note with appreciation that Iceland has signed and ratified the Lanzarote Convention (Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse) and has taken steps to raise awareness and build competence with regard to the related issues.

We also welcome Iceland’s steps that have been taken to direct more attention towards the issue of human trafficking and encourage the Government to bring further the efforts to determine the extent of the issue, and to further involve civil society in the development, implementation and evaluation of anti-trafficking policy.

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

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

- to adopt a national plan of action on the prevention and protection from all forms of violence, including domestic violence.

Finally, Estonia very warmly notes Iceland’s active participation in the Freedom Online Coalition in the global fora and Iceland’s excellent results in ensuring free and open Internet in the country.

We wish the delegation of Iceland a successful review meeting.

Thank you!