**Universal Periodical Review of the Republic of Lithuania**

**2 November 2016**

**Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Mr Vice-President

Estonia warmly welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Lithuania to its second UPR. We thank Lithuania for their report and information provided in the opening speech.

Estonia notes with appreciation that Lithuania is a party to most of the core treaties of the UN and other organizations on the protection of human rights and is fully cooperating with UN special procedures.

We welcome the Government’s achievements in the field of gender equality, the promotion and protection of women’s human rights, including combating violence against women. We are delighted to note that the new Labour Code helps to reduce the wage gap and improves wage transparency. We also positively note the ongoing debate on draft amendments to the Law on the Rights of the Child in the *Seimas*, and the plans regarding provision of sexual education in schools.

We commend Lithuania for their significant achievements in ensuring the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. The adoption of the Law on National Minorities that is being discussed at the *Seimas* at the moment would continue to be a positive step forward.

We further welcome Lithuania’s steps that have been taken to pay more attention to the issue of human trafficking and encourage the Government to continue with 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 Lithuania:

- to adopt legislation explicitly prohibiting corporal punishment of children, including in the home, and consider awareness-raising activities to increase public knowledge about the issue;

- to continue to improve the training and specialization of investigators, prosecutors and judges to tackle the crimes of trafficking in persons, including with a focus on women and children.

We wish the delegation of Lithuania a successful review meeting. Thank you!