**Universal Periodical Review of the Republic of Moldova**

**4 November 2016**

**Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Mr Vice-President

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

Estonia notes with appreciation that the Republic of Moldova is a party to most of the core treaties of the UN and is fully cooperating with UN special procedures. We positively note the efforts of Moldova to fulfill treaty body reporting obligations, including the latest report on the implementation of the CAT.

We note that the Government of Moldova continues to take positive steps for the protection of the rights of national minorities, including the latest Strategy on inclusive diversity. Estonia further commends the Government for developing a new National Human Rights Action Plan for 2017–2020. We consider it important to protect the civil society space in country to aid the advancement of human rights, including in the fight against corruption.

We deeply regret to note that the cases of domestic violence, including with serious consequences to the victim, have increased in the country. In this light, Estonia appreciates the efforts of the Government to combat discrimination and violence against women, including putting into place the new Strategy on gender equality. We hope that the Strategy on the prevention and combating violence against women and domestic violence, still in drafting process, will better ensure a more systemic approach towards fighting violence against women.

We would like to **recommend** to the Government of the Republic of Moldova to:

- take steps to more effectively prevent and prosecute cases of violence against women, including domestic violence, and to ensure the effective implementation and enforcement of existing legislation in this regard;

- to ratify the Kampala Amendments to the Rome Statute of the ICC and the and the APIC (Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court).

We wish the delegation of the Republic of Moldova a successful review meeting.

Thank you!