**Universal Periodic Review of the Republic of Ecuador**

**1st May 2017
Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Estonia welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Ecuador to its third UPR. We thank Ecuador for the report and for the information provided today.

While recognizing some positive developments, in order to enhance the protection, promotion and full realization of human rights in the country, we recommend the Government of Ecuador:

* to guarantee a safe and enabling environment to all human rights defenders, investigate all allegations of attacks, harassment, and intimidation against them, and ensure that the legislation on freedom of expression, including online, is fully in compliance with the article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR);
* to take steps to ensure and protect the full independence and impartiality of the judiciary;
* to ensure that all girls and women have access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health promotion and care, including access to modern contraceptive methods;
* to establish effective consultation process with the indigenous peoples and communities concerned for any project that might affect their territory or livelihoods.

We note with regret that none of the UN special procedures mandate holders have visited the country since 2014, despite numerous requests and Ecuador’s standing invitation.

Estonia wishes the delegation a successful UPR.

Thank you.