**Universal Periodic Review of the Republic of Finland**

**3 May 2017**

**Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Estonia warmly welcomes the delegation of Finlandto its third UPR.

Finland has been successful in implementing the recommendations made during the previous review. We particularly welcome several ratifications of UN human rights instruments, and the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul convention). Estonia further commends Finland’s comprehensive efforts in tackling discrimination, hate speech and hate crime. We also emphasize the high level of protection of the freedom of press in the country, a timely positive reminder at today’s celebration of the World Press Freedom Day.

We recommend to the Government of Finland:

- to take further measures to address violence against women, including domestic and sexual violence, especially in the field of prevention;

- to continue to introduce effective measures to combat all forms of discrimination, hate speech and hate crime, both online and offline, and ensure that such crimes are effectively investigated.

Finally, we acknowledge the role of Finland as an international development policy donor and its focus on the human rights of women and girls, including the promotion of women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights, education and employment.

We wish the delegation of Finland a successful third review meeting.

Thank you.