**Universal Periodic Review of the Republic of India**

**4 May 2017**

**Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Estonia welcomes the delegation of India to its third UPR.

We welcome the efforts of the Government of India to ensure greater access to financial services and pensions for economically marginalized Indians, and the Total Sanitation campaign to make modern sanitation available to more households and schools. We note the political commitment of India to the eradication of violence and discrimination against women, and the protection of the rights of children.

We recommend to the Government of India:

* to ratify the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) and its Optional Protocol (OPCAT), and swiftly move ahead with the Bill on the Prevention of Torture;
* to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR-OP2);
* to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;
* to strengthen the independent functioning of the judiciary, in order to reduce delays in judicial proceedings, enhance transparency of the processes and guarantee the right to speedy trial.

Estonia wishes the delegation a successful UPR.

Thank you.