**Universal Periodic Review of the Kingdom of Morocco**

**2 May 2017**

**Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Estonia welcomes the delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco to its third UPR, and thanks for the presentation of its national report.

We note positive developments in the country, including the increase in school enrolment for girls, especially in rural areas. We also highlight that the new provisions in the draft Criminal Code and the draft Code of Criminal Procedure, among others, designate the need to monitor the conditions of police custody. Here we call on Morocco to step up its ongoing efforts to designate a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT).

We now take the opportunity to reiterate some of our previous recommendations for Morocco:

* to ensure that the Penal Code is fully in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR);
* to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR);
* to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Finally, we encourage Morocco to guarantee access for journalists and human rights defenders to Morocco and Western Sahara.

Estonia wishes the delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco a successful UPR.

Thank you.