**Universal Periodic Review of the Republic of the Philippines**

**8 May 2017**

**Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Estonia warmly welcomes the delegation of the Philippines to its third UPR.

We note the efforts of the Government to meet its human rights obligations since its previous UPR, in particular, the accession to the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT).

Estonia recommends to the Government of Philippines the following:

* to guarantee that all the Government’s methods of combating the use of illegal drugs are brought into line with international standards.

We call on the Philippines to respect its obligations under international law, in particular the respect for the rule of law and of human rights, including the right to due process, the independence of the judiciary and fair trial.

* to guarantee the rights of children in the context of criminal accountability and create the best alternative for improving the current system of youth accountability, in compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).
* to ensure that the domestic legislation conforms with the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and other human rights instruments, to fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), and to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (OP-CRPD).
* to take all necessary measures to provide adequate protection to journalists and human rights defenders, in particular regarding enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings.

Estonia wishes the delegation a successful review.

Thank you.