**Universal Periodic Review of the Republic of South Africa**

**10 May 2017**

**Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Estonia welcomes the delegation of South Africa to its third UPR and thanks for the presentation of the national report.

We welcome the extensive follow-up process regarding recommendations from the previous UPR cycle, in particular, the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

Estonia recommends to the Government of South Africa:

* to take all necessary measures to safeguard the full enjoyment of human rights by women and girls, including combatting sexual and gender-based violence;
* to take all necessary measures to ensure that that all reports of ill-treatment and torture in prisons and centers of detention are adequately investigated, and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT);
* to continue to combat hate crime and hate speech, and to ensure that the provisions of the draft Bill on the Prevention and Combating of Hate Crimes and Hate Speech cannot be used to restrict the right of freedom of expression and religion.

Finally, while noting the revocation of the Government of its decision to withdraw from the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), we encourage South Africa to continue to uphold its commitments in the future to support the fight against impunity as a party to the Statute.

Estonia wishes the delegation a successful UPR.

Thank you.