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**Universal Periodic Review of Uruguay**

**1 May 2024**

**Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Estonia welcomes the delegation of Uruguay to its fourth UPR and thanks the delegation for the information provided today.

We note the various positive steps taken by Uruguay to improve the human rights situation, in particular the adoption of the First National Human Rights Plan, as well as the legislative and other measures to promote gender equality and to curb gender-based violence. Despite progress, gender-based violence remains of concern, as does the sharp increase in the number of women deprived of liberty.

We are also concerned about the increase in criminal proceedings, threats and restrictions related to the freedom of opinion and expression of journalists as well as peaceful assembly by all persons. We encourage Uruguay to put further effort into making progress in ensuring full enjoyment of rights in these fields.

We would like to recommend to Uruguay to:

* allocate the financial, technical and human resources required for effective implementation of the Law on Gender-based Violence against Women;
* implement comprehensive sexuality education programs;
* ensure full access to adequate sexual and reproductive health services throughout the country, including safe abortion;
* adopt a comprehensive, child-centred, rights-based and gender-sensitive strategy to combat and eradicate the phenomena of the sale, sexual exploitation and abuse of children.

We wish the delegation of Uruguay a successful review meeting.

Thank you.