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**Universal Periodic Review of Costa Rica**

**11 November 2024**

**Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Estonia welcomes the delegation of Costa Rica to its fourth UPR and commends Costa Rica’s active role as a member in the Human Rights Council.

Estonia commends Costa Rica for the steps taken to achieve gender equality and eradicate all forms of violence against women. We welcome the legalization of the same-sex marriage and prohibiting marriage under 18 years of age. Estonia notes with concern reports of considerable increase in violations of freedom of expression. We also express our concern regarding the practice of corporal punishment of children, despite its legal prohibition, and we encourage Costa Rica to continue to promote positive parenting.

We would like to recommend to Costa Rica to:

* strengthen the national human rights institution by ensuring its independence and providing adequate funding;
* ensure universal access to health services, in particular to sexual and reproductive health services and modern contraceptives, including in rural and coastal areas;
* enact legislation and policies to improve children’s access to the digital environment, including children with disabilities and those living in rural and coastal areas;
* strengthen measures to promote safe digital spaces to protect children from inappropriate content and other online risks.

We wish Costa Rica a successful review.

Thank you.