**Universal Periodic Review of the Czech Republic**

**6th November 2017
Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Estonia warmly welcomes the delegation of the Czech Republic to its third UPR.

We note with appreciation that the Government of the Czech Republic has submitted to its Parliament a proposal for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, also in line with our recommendation in the previous UPR cycle.

We further welcome the efforts of the Czech Republic to achieve gender equality, especially the implementation of the Government’s Strategy for Equality Between Women and Men for 2014 – 2020 and the Action Plan for Balanced Representation of Women and Men in Decision-making Positions for 2016 – 2018. We encourage the Government to continue this important work to achieve a balanced representation of women and men in Government and decision-making positions, equality between women and men in the labour market and in business, and promote better work-life balance.

Furthermore, we encourage the Czech Republic to continue its efforts to fight violence against women and domestic violence, especially against women and children, in line with the Action Plan for the Prevention of Domestic and Gender-motivated Violence (2015-2018)*.*

Finally, we would like to recommend to the Government of the Czech Republic to:

1) swiftly ratify the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (OP-CRPD) in line with the National Action Plan to Promote Equal Opportunities for the Persons with Disabilities (2015 – 2020);

2) accelerate the process of ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention).

We wish the Czech Republic every success in the implementation of these measures.

Thank you.