**Universal Periodic Review of Ghana**

**7th November 2017
Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

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

We note with appreciation the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT) by Ghana. We also welcome the bill drafted for the abolition of death penalty, which requires a referendum to take place in accordance with the 1992 Constitution.

Ghana has shown considerable efforts to achieve universal primary education, and we note with appreciation the continued efforts to extend access to free senior high school for all students starting from September 2017.

We encourage Ghana to continue to eliminate harmful practices that affect children and women, such as child labour, child, early and forced marriage, violence against children, domestic violence and female genital mutilation (FGM).

We would like to recommend to the Government of Ghana to:

1) establish a National Preventative Mechanism (NPM) for combating torture in line with the the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT);

2) continue efforts to abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (OP2-ICCPR);

3) enact the Affirmative Action Bill promoting women in governance and decision-making positions;

4) intensify efforts to bring the domestic legislation in compliance with the provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

We wish Ghana a successful review and subsequent implementation of the accepted recommendations.

Thank you.