**Universal Periodical Review of the** **Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal**

**21 January 2021**

**Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Estonia welcomes the delegation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal.

We note positively the improvements made in the Nepalese legal framework and understands the challenging circumstances the country faces particularly due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Estonia encourages Nepal to pay more attention to the human rights of the vulnerable groups and makes the following recommendations:

- adopt policies to protect and provide justice for women and girls, especially those from minority communities;

- establish a special mechanism responsible for independent child rights monitoring;

- ensure the right to freedom of expression online/offline in law and in practice and guarantee a safe and enabling environment for journalist and human rights defenders.

Estonia would also like to reiterate its earlier recommendation for Nepal to accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and to incorporate its provisions into national legislation.

We wish the delegation of Nepal a successful review meeting.

Thank you!