**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**38th SESSION**

**REVIEW OF ESTONIA**

**INTERVENTION BY TURKEY**

**(4 May 2021)**

Madam President,

We thank the delegation of Estonia for their presentation.

We are pleased to witness that human rights have become increasingly important aspect of Estonia’s foreign policy over the years.

Adoption of the first Human Rights Diplomacy Action Plan by the Government on 12 April this year is the latest manifestation of this positive approach.

We recognize Estonia’s focus on ensuring the rule-based international order and enforcing international law, including the protection and promotion of human rights, the rule of law and combating impunity during its UN Security Council membership in 2020-2021.

We welcome Estonia’s continuous efforts to safeguard social and cultural rights of its national minorities.

On the other hand, the growing tendency in racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia in Estonia continues to be a source of concern. Turkey **recommends** Estonia to establish a comprehensive strategy to address this matter.

The authorities should remain vigilant against such tendencies which seek to exploit the efforts against COVID-19 pandemic, making it an excuse for undermining the rights of migrants, multiculturalism and basic democratic principles.

Turkey wishes Estonia all success during its 3rd UPR.

Thank you.