**Universal Periodic Review of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea**

**4 November 2021**

**Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Estonia warmly welcomes the delegation of the **Independent State of Papua New Guinea** to the UPR’s 39th session.

Estonia notes with appreciation that since the 2016 UPR, Papua New Guinea has taken several positive steps towards gender equality. We commend Papua New Guinea for establishing a Gender-Based Violence Secretariat and developing a National Strategy to prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence. We encourage the government of Papua New Guinea to allocate sufficient funds and continue strengthening the measures to promote gender equality and fight gender based and domestic violence.

We commend the government of Papua New Guinea for establishing the National Child Council in 2018 and look forward to seeing new achievements on the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, in particular by increasing the number of Child Protection Officers and by establishing Provincial and District Child Councils.

Although we understand the challenges caused by extremely diverse local indigenous communities, we encourage the government of Papua New Guinea to enhance its consideration of the participation of communities, cultural actors and local non-governmental organizations. At the same time, we expect that authorities will be able to allocate sufficient funds for raising awareness against sorcery-related violence, especially at the community level.

Estonia would like to recommend to the Government of Papua New Guinea to:

* ratify the **Rome Statute** of the International Criminal Court (**ICC**);
* ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (**CAT**) and optional protocol (**OP-CAT**);
* deliver the overdue reports at the Human Rights Council, including UNCEDAW, CRC and CRPD.

Estonia would like to wish the delegation of Papua New Guinea a successful review meeting.

Thank you!