**Universal Periodic Review of ROMANIA**

**16 January 2018
Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Estonia warmly welcomes the delegation of the Romania to its 3rd UPR, and thanks the State Secretary, Mr Alexandru Victor Micula for the presentation of the report.

Estonia notes with appreciation that in the area of human rights Romania’s institutional and legal framework has been developed further, contributing to the implementation of the recommendations from the previous UPR cycle.

Estonia welcomes the adoption of the National Strategy on the Protection and Promotion of Children’s Rights 2014-2020 and the National Strategy on Children’s and Adolescents’ Mental Health 2016-2020. We further positively note the draft law on the creation of an Ombudsman for Children, and look forward to the approval of the draft law by the Parliament. We call on Romania to provide sufficient resources to these mechanisms to further improve children rights, including in order to identify, report, prevent and monitor cases of violence against and abuse of children in all settings, and to investigate such cases and hold perpetrators accountable.

We further welcome the implementation of the previous National Anticorruption Strategy 2012-2015 and expect that the current strategy for 2016-2020 will lead the Government of Romania to address even move effectively the systematic corruption issues at all levels and to further ensure judicial independence and rule of law.

In the field of freedom of speech and press, Estonia notes positively that a wide variety of media in Romania is active, but notes with concern attempts to restrict media and harassment of journalists. Estonia **recommends** Romania to direct further focus on safeguarding freedom of expression and media freedom.

While noting steps by the Government to fight gender based violence, we would like to **recommend** Romaniato harmonize fully its national legislation with the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence Istanbul Convention.

Finally, Estonia **recommends** to increase the budget for the National Tuberculosis Program and to change the legislation necessary to treat all tuberculosis patients.

We would like to wish to the delegation of the Romania a successful review meeting.

Thank you.