**Universal Periodic Review of BURUNDI**

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

Estonia welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Burundi to its 3rd UPR, and thanks for the presentation of the report.

Estonia recognises that during the previous reporting cycle Burundi has acceded to some human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), its optional protocol (OP-CRPD) and to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT). At the same time, we encourage Burundi to submit all overdue reports to the UN treaty bodies.

Moreover, we regret that even though Burundi, a member of the Human Rights Council, has offered a standing invitation to UN Special Procedures, the Government has not allowed the UN Commission of Inquiry for Burundi to enter the country. We call on the Government to cooperate with international human rights monitoring mechanisms, and allow them unimpeded access to its territory.

In the context of prevailing impunity and the need to ensure the independence of the judiciary, Estonia **recommends** the Government of Burundi to set up a judicial mechanism to prosecute genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes or other gross human rights violations or serious violations of international humanitarian law.

In the same light, Estonia is disappointed in the withdrawal of Burundi from the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). We call on Burundi to continue cooperation with the Prosecutor of the ICC.

Estonia further **recommends** the Government of Burundi to put an immediate end to any intimidations or sanctions against members of NGOs defending human rights and journalists.

Finally, Estonia **recommends** to the Government of Burundi to reduce maternal mortality, including by improving access to basic prenatal and postnatal care.

We wish the delegation of Burundi a successful review meeting.

Thank you.