**Universal Periodic Review of SERBIA**

**24 January 2018**

**Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Estonia welcomes the delegation of Serbia to its third UPR and thanks for the presentation of the national report.

We note with appreciation that Serbia has become party to the majority of international human rights instruments and is fully cooperating with the special procedures of the UN Human Rights Council, as well as with treaty bodies.

Estonia would like to **recommend** Serbia to fully respect and implement the principle of rule of law by taking all necessary measures to ensure the effective and independent functioning of the judiciary.

In order to ensure protection of freedom of expression and independence and pluralism of media, Estonia further **recommends** Serbia to address threats and attacks against journalist and improve transparency of media ownership and independence of media outlets.

Estonia regrets that girls and women are still frequently exposed to gender-based violence. To continue working towards ensuring gender equality and women’s rights, we **recommend** Serbia to review and revise the Criminal Code, the Family Code and other relevant laws with a view to effectively prevent all forms of violence against women.

Finally, regrettably, there is a high number of reported cases of violence against children, including corporal punishment currently permitted in the home, trafficking of children and commercial sexual exploitation of children. To promote and ensure the rights of the child, we **recommend** Serbia to establish legislative and other measures to ensure compliance with the general protocol on the protection of children from abuse and violence.

Estonia wishes the delegation a successful UPR.

Thank you.