**Universal Periodic Review of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

**5 November 2018**

**Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Estonia welcomes the delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to its third UPR.

Estonia acknowledges Saudi Arabia’s cooperation with special procedures of the Human Rights Council and invites the Government to consider issuing a standing invitation.

While acknowledging some progress made in measures taken by the Government to advance human rights, including women’s rights, compared to the previous UPR, Estonia would like to recommend Saudi Arabia to:

1) ratify the ICCPR and its second optional protocol;

2) take meaningful steps to ensure that human rights defenders, journalists, representatives of non-governmental organizations are able to freely and fully exercise their rights to freedom of expression, opinion and association, including online, without threats or harassment;

3) ensure the full and impartial investigation of incidents and violence against human rights defenders, in particular journalists, including the death of Jamal Khashoggi, and bring perpetrators to justice;

4) repeal its reservations to the CEDAW and eliminate domestic provisions regulating legal capacity, divorce, the guardianship system and inheritance that currently discriminate against women, and advance women’s and girls’ sexual and reproductive health and rights;

5) abolish all forms of corporal punishment for all persons, including children and detainees, in all settings.

We wish the delegation of Saudi Arabia a successful review meeting.

Thank you.