**Universal Periodic Review of the ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT**

**13 November 2019**

**Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Mr. President

Estonia welcomes the delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the UPR.

Estonia notes with appreciation the stated goal of the Government of Egypt to ease restrictions on civil society and we encourage further steps in this regard, especially on ensuring a safe and enabling environment for all human rights defenders.

We welcome the development of a national strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women in 2017 and the stricter penalties introduced concerning the female genital mutilation in 2016. We remain however, concerned about the still prevalent discrimination against women and gender based violence.

Estonia would like to draw attention to the need to ensure full respect of freedom of expression and the media both online and offline. Ensuring security and promoting and protecting human rights need to be complementary efforts.

While noting Egypt’s steps towards implementing the previous recommendations, we encourage Egypt to extend a standing invitation and full cooperation to the Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council and to step up its cooperation with Treaty Bodies.

Estonia recommends the Government of Egypt to:

- accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;

- ensure freedom of expression, including freedom of the media, online and offline;

- amend and effectively implement legislation to eliminate and criminalise all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls and withdraw Egypt’s reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW);

- include comprehensive education on sexual and reproductive healthin the national educational curricula and ensure the necessary resources for its effective implementation;

- extend a moratorium on death penalty with the view to its full abolition, and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR.

We wish the delegation of Egypt a successful review meeting.

Thank you!