**Universal Periodical Review of the Republic of Turkey**

**28 January 2020**

**Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Estonia warmly welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Turkey.

We welcome the efforts of Turkey to improve the independence, impartiality and transparency of its judiciary through the judicial reform strategy and encourage Turkey to enhance it further by ensuring for a full separation of powers.

Estonia commends Turkey´s efforts in hosting the world's largest refugee population of nearly 4 million refugees and providing them with humane living conditions.

Considering this, Estonia recommends the following:

* Accede to and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the ICC.
* Decriminalize defamation and ensure that the right to freedom of expression is consistent with international human rights standards.
* Explicitly criminalize gender based and domestic violence and to.
* Establish independent mechanisms for reporting and investigation of allegations of unlawful detention, torture, and inhumane treatment in the hands of police and security forces.

Moreover, Estonia encourages establishing a special unit within the Ombudsman Institution to deal with rights of the child and adopt a national action plan to help prevent violence against children.

Estonia remains concerned by the violations to the freedom of expression and by the high number of journalists and human rights defenders in jail. We urge Turkey to protect democratic values by bringing its national legislation on counter terrorism in line with international standards.

We wish the delegation of Turkey a successful review meeting.

Thank you!