



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
21 January 2016

Original: English

UNEDITED VERSION

Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Twenty-fourth session
Geneva, 18-29 January 2016

Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Estonia

* The annex to the present report is circulated as received.

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-fourth session from 18 to 13 January 2016. The review of Estonia was held at the 4th meeting on 19 January 2016. The delegation of Estonia was headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Marina Kaljurand. At its 10th meeting held on 22 January 2016, the Working Group adopted the report on Estonia.

2. On 12 January 2016, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Estonia: Burundi, Qatar and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Estonia:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/24/EST/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/24/EST/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/24/EST/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Estonia through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the UPR.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation stated that the expansion of the space for human rights, democracy, rule of law and advancement of international law remained one of the priorities of the foreign policy. Estonia has been a party to the core international human rights conventions and majority of regional human rights treaties, and has regularly submitted its reports on their implementation.

6. Estonia remained committed to protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms at national and international level. It had issued a standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council to visit the country. Estonia would continue paying special attention to ensure involvement and participation of the civil society in the work of the Human Rights Council.

7. The delegation reported on active participation of Estonia in the work of the Human Rights Council during its membership of 2013-2015. The rights of women and children, consideration of the gender perspective in conflict situations, the fight against impunity, the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, freedom of expression, including in the Internet and non-discrimination of the LGBTI persons were the focus of the work of Estonia during its membership of the Council.

8. Estonia considered the universal periodic review as an effective tool to promote human rights and to exchange best practices. Since its first review of 2011 Estonia had undertaken a coordinated effort to implement the recommendations and voluntary commitments. The delegation reported that Estonia had implemented an overwhelming majority of the accepted recommendations and that a few of them remained in the process of implementation.

9. In the reporting period, Estonia held continuous cooperation with human rights bodies of the United Nations. It received several visits of the special rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council and submitted periodic reports to CERD, CEDAW, CRC, CAT and CRPD, as well as its common core document in 2015. In addition, the Government maintained continuing dialogue and consultations with representatives of the civil society on human rights issues.

10. The delegation expressed its gratitude to all states that submitted advance questions. It continued its statement to provide response to those questions. The protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities remained a priority of the Government. The Estonian population comprised over 190 nationalities and minorities constituted approximately 31 percent of the population. Estonia had been implementing its national integration programmes since 2000. The new programme for 2014-2020, which was developed by taking into account new developments in the society, assessments of regular monitoring, opinions of representatives of the national minorities and experts, set three main objectives, including the provision of continuing support to long-term residents belonging to national minorities to integrate them into the society. The Ministry of Culture along with other several ministries had been responsible for the realization of the national integration policy, encompassing different areas of life. The Integration Monitoring Survey which was carried out in 2014 and 2015 indicated positive results of the integration efforts.

11. The delegation reported on a launch of a new Russian language public television channel, targeting Russian speaking audience and aiming to provide objective information on daily life of Estonia and to help to the integration of the Russian speaking population in the society. Furthermore, the provision of free courses on Estonian language was envisaged in the Integration Strategy to enhance the command of the state language among minorities.

12. One of the priorities of the Government was to reduce the number of persons with undetermined citizenship. The amendments to the Citizenship Act aimed at simplifying naturalization requirements and targeted especially children of parents with undetermined citizenship, beneficiaries of international protection and older persons. The number of persons with undetermined citizenship decreased due to continuous efforts of the Government.

13. Estonia complied with the European Union legislation related to the regulations and requirements of refugee determination and status as well as the provision of legal guarantees for them. In this respect, the 2016 legal amendments would further transpose the EU legislation.

14. Estonia took steps to improve the living conditions of asylum seekers. In 2014 an accommodation centre for asylum seekers was moved to a new location, which was closer to public services, including education institutions, labour market and health care services than the previous one. Estonia took measures to ensure that children of newly arrived migrants, refugees or asylum seekers received adequate education. Estonian language immersion programme had proven effective and the children of refugees who started schools in autumn 2015 had already a good command of Estonian.

15. Estonia took steps to promote tolerance and cultural diversity. Incitement to hatred, violence or discrimination is criminalized. Further improvement of the Criminal Code had been envisaged. Additionally, Estonia had been continuously tackling these issues through

education. The General Education Programme 2016-2019 included specific activities on human rights and Estonia joined “No Hate Speech” initiative of the Council of Europe.

16. The delegation expressed the commitment of Estonia to promote gender equality. The empowerment of women and their equal rights remained one of the priorities of development cooperation of Estonia. The Government adopted the second action plan for the implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on “Women, Peace and Security” for 2015–2019 to improve the situation of women in conflict areas.

17. Estonia has been in a process of preparation of its first action plan for equality policies, including gender equality for 2016-2023 in order to promote equal participation of women in decision-making at all levels. A set of activities in various areas had been envisaged to reduce the pay gap. The Government took special measures to address gender stereotypes as a root cause of gender inequality in general and gender pay gap in particular. For example, in 2013 an awareness raising campaign was carried out to tackle gender stereotypes. The Gender Equality Act provided legal guarantees for equal treatment of men and women in vocational education and professional training opportunities. The Government paid special attention to ensure equal employment opportunities for men and women in higher education institutions. The mandate of the labour inspectorate was broadened to scrutinize the implementation of the legal requirement of equal pay.

18. Combating domestic violence, violence against women and human trafficking remained a priority and thus, the Government continued to implement inter alia awareness-raising campaigns and provide training and seminars for the police, prosecutors and judges.

19. The Registered Partnership Act, which came into force in January 2016 legalised same-sex partnership and the adoption of relevant acts for its implementation had been planned for 2016.

20. The Ombudsman for Children was established in 2011 and its duties were designated to the Chancellor of Justice. Estonia initiated a process of establishing an independent monitoring mechanism to implement the provisions of CRPD, right after becoming a party to the Convention. Estonia took measures to reform the social welfare framework for persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

21. The establishment of a national human rights institution remained under the consideration of the Government. No new institution might be established taking into account several objective factors. The Chancellor of Justice, which is an independent institution with a mandate to receive complains and oversee application of international human rights norms in Estonia has been covering most of the functions of a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

22. During the interactive dialogue, 73 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

23. Dominican Republic noted efforts of Estonia to adhere to CRPD, promote of the rights of women and the gender equality, in particular an action plan on reduction of the pay gap. It highlighted efforts to improve prison conditions. Dominican Republic made recommendations.

24. Ecuador underscored the creation of institutions such as the Ombudsman for Children and the Gender Equality Council. Equal treatment of minorities remained a challenge. Ecuador expressed concern over the situation of persons with “undetermined citizenship”. It made recommendations.

25. Egypt commended the ratification of CRPD and OP-CRC-AC, creation of the Ombudsman for Children, and efforts to combat trafficking in human beings. Egypt expressed concern about xenophobic and racist discourse in media and politics, situation of Roma and about racially motivated hate crimes, including against asylum-seekers in Vao village. It made recommendations.
26. Finland noted with appreciation steps taken by Estonia to ensure the rights of the child and welcomed a national strategy for Roma integration. It encouraged Estonia to adopt legislative measures and policies to provide protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Finland made recommendations.
27. Morocco noted the legislative reforms regarding the rights to social security and adequate standards of living, and progress made in combatting human trafficking. It noted with appreciation endeavours of Estonia to protect the rights of the child and measures taken to promote gender equality in education. Morocco made recommendations.
28. Georgia commended Estonia for becoming a party to several international conventions, efforts in ensuring gender equality, and the creation of the Ombudsman for Children and adoption of a child protection act. It encouraged Estonia to continue the practice of submitting mid-term reports on the follow up to the review. Georgia made recommendations.
29. Germany welcomed several steps taken to implement reforms to which Estonia had committed itself under the universal periodic review of 2011, while noting that some challenges remained. It made recommendations.
30. Ghana noted with appreciation steps taken by Estonia to establish a national human rights institute in accordance with the Paris Principles. It made recommendations.
31. Hungary welcomed the amendment to the Penal code that included the definition of torture used in CAT. It asked Estonia about further measures foreseen to prevent effectively trafficking in human beings. Hungary made recommendations.
32. Iceland commended Estonia for its efforts to better integrate ethnic and linguistic minorities. It encouraged the Government to accelerate its efforts to ensure a coherent framework for protection of persons belonging to the Russian-speaking linguistic minority. Iceland made recommendations.
33. Indonesia commended Estonia for the establishment of the Ombudsman for Children, the Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner, and improvements of the legislation in various fields, including education and trafficking in human beings. Indonesia made recommendations.
34. Iran (Islamic Republic of) called on the Government to prepare a national strategy for the implementation of CRPD. It expressed concern regarding discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities, as well as detained persons by police. Iran made recommendations.
35. Iraq acknowledged the accession of Estonia to various international human rights instruments and the important role that Estonia played during its membership of the Human Rights Council. Iraq made recommendations.
36. Ireland urged Estonia to implement fully the Registered Partnership Act and consider ratifying OP-CEDAW. It welcomed amendments to the Citizenship Act, easing some requirements for naturalization. However, Ireland shared the concern of the CESCR regarding language barriers facing the Russian-speaking minority. It made recommendations.

37. Italy welcomed the creation of the Ombudsman for children, the Gender Equality Council and an independent monitoring mechanism of the CRPD. Italy found the introduction of I- voting a very interesting tool to ensure the realisation of rights not only offline but also online. Italy made recommendations.
38. Latvia noted positively active involvement of Estonia in the work of the Human Rights Council. As strong advocate of the universal ratification of the Rome Statute of the ICC, Latvia welcomed the leadership of Estonia in raising awareness of this issue in the Human Rights Council. It made recommendations.
39. Libya noted positive developments since the first review of Estonia, including standing invitation to the special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council and the adoption of the 2014 Strategy of Integration and Social Cohesion aimed at the effective participation of minority groups in the society. Libya made recommendations.
40. Lithuania commended Estonia for the establishment of the Ombudsman for Children and the Gender Equality Council, adoption of the Child Protection Act, and signing of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. Lithuania made recommendations.
41. China noted the ratification of ICRPD and other instruments, the development of an action plan to prevent violence, the adoption of a law on the protection of the child, and strengthening of efforts to combat trafficking in human beings. China made recommendations.
42. Mexico welcomed the establishment of the Ombudsman for the rights of children and the Gender Equality Council. It commended Estonia for the efforts to ensure the implementation of CRPD. Mexico made recommendations.
43. Montenegro welcomed the adoption of the Registered Partnership Act and of the new Child Protection Act. It also noted that Estonia approved an action plan to reduce the gender pay gap and asked the delegation to elaborate more on the results achieved. Montenegro made recommendations.
44. France commended the adoption of the Registered Partnership Act, which was a step forward in ensuring the rights for LGBT persons.
45. Namibia congratulated the establishment of the Ombudsman for Children and the Gender Equality Council. It noted the Welfare Development Plan 2016-2023. Namibia encouraged Estonia to continue taking measures to implement an action plan to reduce the gender pay gap. It made recommendations.
46. The Netherlands commended Estonia for adopting the Registered Partnership Act, which grants legal protection to families regardless of its composition. It also noted the active role played by Estonia in the field of freedom of media and internet. The Netherlands made recommendations.
47. The delegation stated that Estonia had been facing the challenges related to the influx of migration. In this context, the Government continued its efforts to tackle racism and xenophobia in the society. Some public figures, including President of Estonia and the Chancellor of Justice took a strong stance in the public discussion against hate speech and other forms of expression of racism and xenophobia. Due to public discussions, as well as the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights regarding the case *Delfi v Estonia*, the acknowledgement of the media of its role and responsibilities in addressing the issue strengthened.
48. The Minister of Justice held discussions and consultations with law enforcement authorities to address effectively hate motivated offences. The Government worked

constantly to improve education system in order to tackle the manifestations of racism and xenophobia, and build a human rights culture in the society.

49. Furthermore, a fight against racism and xenophobia and integration of migrants remained at the centre of several policies, programs and action plans. A special program on migrants envisaged the provision of a support to migrants to settle in the country. The new strategy of integration and the social cohesion, entitled Integrating Estonia 2020, addressed the integration as a complex process with an emphasis on preservation of ethnic identities and cultures of minority groups and guarantees for their equal opportunities to participate in public life.

50. Incitement to hatred, violence or discrimination on various grounds was prohibited and punishable by law. The Minister of Justice had been drafting legal amendments in order to improve further the legislation regarding hate and racist crimes, including by incorporating racist and hate motives of crimes as aggravating circumstances. The 2015 amendments to the Criminal Code already envisaged a punishment for an organization encouraging racial discrimination or violence.

51. In response to questions on prison conditions, the delegation reported that living conditions of detainees had gradually improved owing to newly built or renovated detention facilities. The minimum requirement for living space was met at the new prisons of Viru and Tartu. The building of new premises of the Tallinn prison and detention centre commenced. No old type of prison would remain by 2019 and thus, all prisons would have been modernized to meet living conditions standards.

52. The legal amendments prohibited overcrowding in prisons and stipulated the maximum number of prisoners that was permitted for each prison to accommodate. Several offences were decriminalized and the conditions for release on parole and probation were made more flexible in 2015. Thus, prison population was slowly decreasing due to targeted measures taken by the Government. Furthermore, the Government was carrying out a reform of juvenile justice system to reduce the number of minors in criminal justice system, which was already small and ensure juveniles access to education.

53. The 2012 amendments to the Criminal Code criminalized all elements of a specific crime of human trafficking in accordance with international law. In 2013, the Act on Victims Support was supplemented with new provisions concerning victims of human trafficking and child victims of sexual abuse. The 2015 amendments to the Criminal Code stipulated more severe punishment for cases of domestic violence compared to cases of other form of violence. In 2015, Estonia ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. In 2014, it signed the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

54. Domestic violence and violence against women, and trafficking in human beings remained a priority issue of the Government. A strategy for preventing violence for 2015-2020 put an emphasis on raising public awareness about those issues. Several training and workshops for various sectors of the society and professional groups, including law enforcement agencies and judges were organized. Various projects, by utilizing new communication and information technologies were carried out to combat trafficking in human beings.

55. Woman victims of violence had been provided with state funded shelters, covering the entire territory of Estonia and providing psychological, social and legal counselling.

56. The new development goals of Estonia aimed to advance welfare and quality of life of children and their families. Among other measures Estonia afforded generous parental benefits for the period of first 18 months of parental leave. However, this opportunity has mostly been used by women. Men constituted less than 10 percent of parents that applied

for the parental leave, indicating that societal attitudes towards traditional gender roles prevailed but the Government has and will continue to take measures to promote gender equality.

57. The new Child Protection Act introduced a major reform in child protection by putting the interests of the child even further in the forefront and positioning the child as an equal member of the society. The delegation reaffirmed the commitment of Estonia to end corporal punishment and promote positive parenting methods of child upbringing.

58. Estonia submitted its initial report to CRPD in 2015. The Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner would be officially designated to fulfil the duties of the independent monitoring mechanism under the Convention. The Government had been working to ensure an equal access of persons with disabilities in the labour market and the provision of community based social services to promote independent living of persons with disabilities. The 2016 Social Welfare Act would also assist in this work.

59. Nicaragua emphasized the progress achieved by Estonia in the areas of social equality, the rights of women and labour rights. It also welcomed the adoption of the Strategy of Integration and Social Cohesion. Nicaragua made recommendations.

60. Norway noted the remaining challenges in relation to non-Estonian residents, especially in their socio-economic conditions. It noted with appreciation improvements in availability of Russian language broadcasting, amendments to the Citizenship Act, addressing some problems of persons without citizenship and the adoption of the Registered Partnership Act. Norway made recommendations.

61. Oman stated that it had closely reviewed the national report of Estonia and made recommendations.

62. Pakistan commended Estonia for its legislation which strengthened the protection of human rights and ratification of international human rights instruments. It appreciated the Special Care Development Plan, Social Integration Strategy, Inclusive education, and the Roma Integration Strategy. Pakistan made recommendations.

63. Panama commended the measures adopted by Estonia in combating all forms of discrimination, trafficking in persons and violence against women. It was alarmed over growing attacks and racist and xenophobic incidents directed to specific groups of the population. Panama made recommendations.

64. The Philippines noted with appreciation the ratification of several international and regional human rights treaties, including CRPD and OP-CRPD. It also welcomed the abolition of the death penalty and acknowledged policies and programs of Estonia in combating trafficking in persons. Philippines made recommendations.

65. Poland acknowledged the efforts of Estonia to comply with the recommendations accepted during the first review. Poland particularly appreciated the measures taken to develop the institutional and legal framework for the protection of national minorities. Poland made recommendations.

66. Portugal welcomed that, since its first review, Estonia had become party to CRPD and its Optional Protocol. Portugal commended Estonia for considering to establish a national institution for the protection of human rights. Portugal made recommendations.

67. The Republic of Korea welcomed the ratification of CRPD, establishment of the position of the Ombudsman for Children and the Gender Equality Council, as well as the enactment of a new Child Protection Act in 2014. It made recommendations.

68. The Republic of Moldova noted achievements of Estonia in ensuring freedom of expression, equality and the rights of women, children and of minorities. It welcomed the

amendments to the Criminal Code, bringing the definition of torture in compliance with CAT and encouraged Estonia to make declarations under articles 21 and 22 of CAT. The Republic of Moldova made a recommendation.

69. Romania welcomed the policy to try to reach a right balance in guaranteeing rights of members of minorities to use their language, on one hand, and ensuring universal knowledge of the state official language, on the other. It made recommendations.

70. The Russian Federation was concerned about systematic violations of the rights of non-titular population to use and get education in their language and to work, and at discrimination of non-citizens in their political and economic rights. It made recommendations.

71. Serbia encouraged Estonia to continue strengthening the independent human rights institutions and wide consultations with civil society in improving the Equal Treatment Act. It made recommendations.

72. Singapore welcomed measures to combat domestic violence and violence against women and underscored the implementation of initiatives such as paid paternity leave and an action plan to reduce the gender pay gap. Singapore made recommendations.

73. Slovakia commended Estonia for strengthening legal and institutional framework in human rights and welcomed the adoption of acts on citizenship and on the child protection. It noted efforts to improve protection of vulnerable groups and integration of asylum seekers, and promote the quality of life of older persons. Slovakia made recommendations.

74. Slovenia commended initiatives in the field of the right to participate in public and political life, ratification of CRPD and OP-CRPD and simplifying naturalisation requirements for several categories of people. It noted that the strict language requirements for employment in public and private sectors could put ethnic minorities at a disadvantage. Slovenia made recommendations.

75. Spain highlighted the adoption of the Registered Partnership Act and the amendments made to the Citizenship Act, which simplified in many aspects the naturalization procedures of non-citizens. Spain made recommendations.

76. Sweden welcomed efforts to decrease the number of detainees in prisons and detention centres. New and modern prisons were constructed. However, there was still a room for improvement in conditions of prisoners. Sweden made a recommendation.

77. Tajikistan welcomed efforts taken by Estonia to ensure rights of children and of older persons. It made recommendations.

78. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia encouraged Estonia to intensify its efforts in combating domestic violence and violence against women, including adoption of amendments to the Penal Code to establish these acts as specific criminal offences. It requested information on the process of establishing a national human rights institution. It made a recommendation.

79. Turkey noted the amendments made to the Citizenship Act which facilitated the acquisition of Estonian citizenship by stateless persons. It was, however, concerned about a growing tendency in manifestations of racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia in Estonian society. Turkey made recommendations.

80. Ukraine commended the reform of the Penal Code, adoption of the new Strategy of Integration, ratification of CRPD and OP-CRPD, and Special Care Development Plan. It praised Estonia's positive attitude towards the social and cultural needs of national minorities, including Ukrainian community. Ukraine encouraged Estonia to continue its efforts to become party to ICPPED, among others.

81. The United Arab Emirates praised the establishment of the Gender Equality Council and measures to address the gender pay gap and to promote gender equality in education. It, however, expressed concern about reports of religious and racial discrimination and Islamophobia. It made recommendations.

82. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed progress made in implementing its recommendations to Estonia during the first review, including the ratification of CRPD and legal recognition of same sex partners. It encouraged the full implementation of the Strategy of Integration. It made recommendations.

83. The delegation stated that the 2015 amendments to the Constitution lowered the minimum age for voting in local elections to 16 years. The Government was considering a possibility to grant prisoners the right to participate in elections.

84. The use of electronic voting system reached 30 percent during 2015 elections. I-voting system had been continuously monitored and improved to ensure the privacy and confidentiality. The confidentiality of the personal data was protected by several security measures. Legal remedies were in place for cases of a breach of confidentiality in personal data management.

85. The delegation recalled that Estonia was one of the most active advocates of cyber security and that Estonia launched a number of key cyber security related initiatives. Estonia utilized some technological resolutions to protect personal data within the state information system. Over 150 inspections were carried by the Data Protection Inspectors in 2015 as a part of their mandate to oversee that data protections regulations were met. Additionally, the Government conducted an in-depth analysis of existing legislation and its implementation in practice in order to improve further the level of the protection of personal data in telecommunication. Estonia envisaged introducing more effective distinction between different approaches and situations where retained data might be used, narrowing scope and laying down more tailor made provisions for different areas, including criminal proceedings and national security.

86. The Constitution entitled everyone, including prisoners the right to judicial review in cases of human rights violations. In this regard, several improvements were made in the work of the judiciary. The average duration of court proceedings was reduced in the last three years. The members of the Judiciary received training on the case law of the European Court of Human Rights. The 2015 amendments to the State Liability Act stipulated the provision of compensation for long criminal procedures. Estonia had started to draft legal amendments to ensure compensations for delays in civil and administrative procedures.

87. In response to questions regarding teaching of minority languages, the delegation stated that the State funded schools provided education in different languages in addition to state official languages. Education in Russian language was available in public and private schools at all levels. According to the legislation, if there were at least ten representatives of the same nationality, residing in a local municipality they were entitled to have education in their own mother tongue.

88. While in primary education the choice of the language of instruction of education was made by the school, at least 60 percent of the curriculum should be completed in Estonian in upper secondary education. The purpose of this requirement was to facilitate enhancement of knowledge of the Estonian language by all members of the population and to ensure access of members of minority groups to higher education and labor market and effective integration in the society. The transition to 60 percent of teaching in Estonian language in the education system was carried out gradually during the period of 2007-2014.

89. The state exams and self-assessment of schools indicated that academic achievements had not been diminished as a result of this change and the knowledge of

Estonia language improved. Six out of fifteen best ranking schools were schools with education in Russian language. Additionally, half of the schools in Russian language joined the Language Immersion Program, ensuring that students of those schools would have good command in Estonian, Russian and English. This Program was also proven to be effective for children of migrants and refugees.

90. Estonia also provided support to adults to learn Estonian language by reimbursing costs of the language courses for those who successfully passed language tests. The state provided free language courses for the employees in the public sector, for long term residents and newly arrived migrants. As for the requirements for language proficiency in certain positions, the delegation emphasized that the requirements were put in place to ensure the provision of public services and information in Estonian language. The language requirement also was in accordance with the particular nature of work. For example, the required proficiency for doctors or pharmacists was higher than for service staff.

91. The delegation confirmed that punitive role of Estonian language inspectorate had considerably decreased. The requirement to impose fines was eliminated for several cases in January 2015. None sufficient command of state language was no longer an administrative offence. Language inspectors should provide realistic amount of time to enhance language skills of an employee. Language inspectors demonstrated more flexibility and often provided with some practical solutions in specific cases to ensure the services were provided in the Estonian language.

92. The new integration strategy focused on socio-economic, educational, cultural and political integration. Integration was seen as a two way process, influencing the society as a whole. The Cultural Advisory Council of national minorities was established in 2008 with an objective to present interests of the minority groups in decision making. The Council promoted cultural life and activities of national minorities and participated in implementing integration policy.

93. In 2015, the Minister of Culture established the National Roma Integration Council, which involved different ministries and local governments, representatives of Roma organizations and experts. The aim of the Council was to encourage and facilitate dialogue, promote cooperation and provide an opportunity to hold discussions related to questions on the integration of the Roma.

94. Unemployment rates among Estonians and non-Estonians decreased in recent years. Discrepancies in unemployment rates between Estonian and ethnic minorities also decreased in 2015. The government paid a special attention to the development of Ida-Virumaa, where Russian speaking minority made the majority of the population. Estonian regional development strategy and Ida-Viru County Action Plan for 2015-2020 foresaw measures to improve living conditions, strengthen the civil society, promote economy and employment opportunities.

95. The United States of America urged Estonia to take further steps to counter prejudice and discrimination against LGBTI persons, migrants, asylum seekers, refugees and members of ethnic and religious minorities. It commended Estonia for its continued efforts to promote a tolerant and integrated society. The United States of America made recommendations.

96. Uruguay emphasized the accession by Estonia to CRPD, OP-CRPD and OP-CRC-AC. It took note of the efforts made by Estonia in establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles. Uruguay made recommendations.

97. Uzbekistan noted with satisfaction efforts taken to strengthen legal and institutional framework for the protection and promotion of human rights. It noted concerns expressed

about cases of discrimination against minorities, migrants and refugees, hate speech and gender discrimination. Uzbekistan made recommendations.

98. Afghanistan acknowledged the reform in the Penal Code and all measures taken to combat all forms of violence. It noted with appreciation the General Education Program for 2016-2019 that included human rights education. Afghanistan made a recommendation.

99. Albania commended the Government for the Welfare Development Plan 2016-2023 and for adopting a new development plan to preventing violence. It encouraged Estonia to make further improvements in human rights. Albania made recommendations.

100. Algeria welcomed the positive steps taken by Estonia to improve the human rights situation since its first review. It noted with satisfaction the ratification of the CRPD, as it was recommended by Algeria and many other delegations in the previous UPR. Algeria made recommendations.

101. Argentina noted with satisfaction the efforts taken by the Government in education and congratulated Estonia for incorporating human rights in the curricula of the primary education. It stated that challenges persisted, especially in relation to minority groups. Argentina made recommendations.

102. Armenia highlighted the new project to enhance communication and mutual understanding between young people and was pleased that the new Strategy of Integration and Social Cohesion addressed issues of integration. Armenia made recommendations.

103. Australia commended Estonia for implementing reforms to which it committed during the review in 2011, including the ratification of the CRPD and its optional protocol and OP-CRC-AC. It commended the adoption of the Co-habitation Act which extended the rights of married couples to unmarried persons, including same-sex couples. Australia made recommendations.

104. Azerbaijan noted that some United Nations treaty bodies expressed their concerns about problems related to discrimination, xenophobia, and racist attitudes, as well as torture, ill-treatment and excessive use of force. Azerbaijan made recommendations.

105. Bahrain applauded the efforts made by Estonia in implementing recommendations of its first review. However, it remained concerned as there was no amendment to the Criminal Code, prohibiting racist organizations and dissemination of ideas which expound racial supremacy and racial hatred. Bahrain made recommendations.

106. Belarus noted measures taken to improve the situation of minorities. It noted discrimination in education and employment owing to restrictive measures taken to promote the state language. It called on Estonia to eliminate those restrictions. Belarus noted stigmatisation of minorities and hate speech by politicians. It made recommendations.

107. Belgium congratulated the adoption of an action plan to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (Women, Peace and Security) and the ratification of CRPD and OP-CRC-AC. Nevertheless, Belgium underscored efforts to be made in the area of combatting all forms of discrimination and racism. Belgium made recommendations.

108. Botswana applauded Estonia's efforts in the fight against impunity and commended the ratification of the Kampala Amendments to the Rome Statute of ICC, and OP-CRC-AC. It remained concerned, however, about reports of continued stigmatisation of certain national minority groups. It made recommendations.

109. Brazil was concerned about incidents of possible disrespect of the principle of non-refoulement; the electronic communications act setting the conditions for service providers to provide data to government agencies; and amendments to the Citizenship Law that might

not cover children between 15-18 years of age. It urged Estonia to ratify the two conventions on statelessness. Brazil made recommendations.

110. Bulgaria noted that since the first review in 2011 Estonia had become party to several international human rights instruments with no any reservations made. It appreciated the creation of the position of the Ombudsman for Children and the establishment of the Gender Equality Council. Bulgaria made recommendations.

111. Burundi noted with satisfaction various measures taken by Estonia to protect gender equality. It commended the adoption of the Child Protection Act and the establishment of the Ombudsman for Children. It noted with appreciation different measures taken to improve the human rights of older persons. Burundi made a recommendation.

112. Canada commended Estonia for the ratification of CRPD. It encouraged the full implementation of the Registered Partnership Act. It noted passing of amendments to the Citizenship Act that granted citizenship to children fifteen years old and younger born to stateless parents and simplified language requirements for older persons. Canada made recommendations.

113. Chile underscored efforts by Estonia to reinforce its legal and institutional framework and adopt national human rights programs such as a national plan to prevent violence against women, Child Protection Act, the amendments to the Penal Code to address trafficking in persons. Chile made recommendations.

114. Malaysia noted the adoption of the Child Protection Act and a plan on preventing violence for 2015-2020, and the creation of the Ombudsman for Children. It noted that its recommendations of the first review had been accepted by Estonia. Malaysia made recommendations.

115. Costa Rica highlighted the incorporation of human rights education in the curriculum and appreciated efforts to improve legislation to combat torture. It expressed concern at the persistence of gender violence and sexual abuses, as well as at the continuing gender pay gap. Costa Rica made recommendations.

116. Croatia commended the adoption of the new Child Protection Act and further strengthening of the protection of the rights of the child. It was pleased that Estonia fulfilled its commitment to enact a new law, prohibiting corporal punishment explicitly. Croatia made recommendations.

117. Cuba highlighted the efforts made by Estonia in improving its gender equality indicators and the rights of women. It noted that several United Nations treaty bodies, regional and non-governmental organizations expressed their concerns over the continuing economic inequality, high unemployment rates and discrimination in employment affecting ethnic minorities. Cuba made recommendations.

118. The Czech Republic made recommendations.

119. Djibouti applauded the efforts of Estonia to implement recommendations from the first review. It was pleased with the decision to incorporate human rights in the curriculum of schools. It called upon Estonia to redouble its efforts to promote and protect human rights. Djibouti made recommendations.

120. In conclusion, the delegation expressed its gratitude to all states that contributed to the discussion during the interactive dialogue. All comments and recommendations would be given due consideration by the Government and recommendations accepted by Estonia would be thoroughly implemented. The follow up of the review would become an essential part of the work of national institutions involved in the protection of human rights.

121. The delegation reaffirmed the commitment of Estonia to continue promoting and protecting human rights and stated that the universal period review mechanism remained a useful part of this work. As a part of the follow up of the review, Estonia would continue its efforts to become a party to the remaining international human rights instruments, including ICPED, the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence and the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education. Estonia would adopt and implement development and action plan in areas of employment, social protection, inclusion, gender equality and equal opportunities for 2016-2023.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

122. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue and listed below have been examined by Estonia and enjoy the support of Estonia:

- 122.1. **Sign and ratify OP-CEDAW (Turkey);**
- 122.2. **Step up its efforts to ratify OP-CEDAW (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);**
- 122.3. **Ratify ICPED (Argentina);**
- 122.4. **Sign and ratify ICPED (Oman);**
- 122.5. **Take necessary steps to ratify ICPED (Slovakia);**
- 122.6. **Consider ratifying ICPED (Uruguay);**
- 122.7. **Ratify ICPED and OP-CEDAW (Portugal);**
- 122.8. **Consider ratifying ICPED, OP-CEDAW and the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (Ghana);**
- 122.9. **Ratify the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (Uzbekistan);**
- 122.10. **Consider ratifying the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (Republic of Korea);**
- 122.11. **Accept and ratify the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (Afghanistan);**
- 122.12. **Prioritize the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence and of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW (Italy);**
- 122.13. **Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Montenegro);**
- 122.14. **Complete the ratification process of the Council of Europe's "Istanbul Convention" (Turkey);**
- 122.15. **Establish a national human rights institution (Iraq) (Algeria);**
- 122.16. **Establish a national human rights institution compliant with the Paris Principles (Hungary);**

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

- 122.17. Establish a national human rights institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Australia);
- 122.18. Establish a national institution for protection of human rights in conformity with the Paris Principles (Burundi);
- 122.19. Establish a national human rights institution in conformity with the Paris Principles (Djibouti);
- 122.20. Establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Pakistan) (Poland) (Azerbaijan);
- 122.21. Establish a national institution for the protection of human rights in accordance with the Paris Principles (Bulgaria)(Portugal);
- 122.22. Establish or designate a national human rights institution compliant with the Paris Principles (Namibia);
- 122.23. Establish a national human rights institution (Oman);
- 122.24. Continue consideration of the establishment of a national human rights institution compliant with the Paris Principles (Georgia);
- 122.25. Consider establishing a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Republic of Korea);
- 122.26. Continue its efforts to establish a national human rights institution, in line with the Paris Principles and with full participation of the civil society (Indonesia);
- 122.27. Continue efforts to create a national human rights institution (Libya);
- 122.28. Establish as soon as possible a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Egypt);
- 122.29. Expedite establishment of a national human rights institution in accordance with Paris Principles (Latvia);
- 122.30. Expedite the process of establishing an independent and effective national human rights institution with a broad human rights mandate, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Ireland);
- 122.31. Take concrete steps towards the establishment of a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Malaysia);
- 122.32. Ensure that the Ombudsman enjoys full autonomy in accordance with the Paris Principle (Nicaragua);
- 122.33. Spare no efforts for the necessary establishment of a national human rights institution (Dominican Republic);
- 122.34. Accelerate the creation of a completely independent and sufficiently funded body with the capacity to defend human rights in Estonia such as a national human rights institution (Costa Rica);
- 122.35. Further raise public awareness about the content of the new legislation and profile of the Ombudsman, in cooperation with NGOs, and in education system raise awareness of children's rights, especially in cases of abuse and children's participation in civil and criminal proceedings (Lithuania);

- 122.36. **Provide the Gender Equality Commissioner with sufficient resources to enable the institution to fulfil its mandate effectively and independently (Namibia);**
- 122.37. **Ensure the functioning of the Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner by providing sufficient resources for this institution (France);**
- 122.38. **Create an independent mechanism in charge of monitoring the implementation of the CRPD (France);**
- 122.39. **Continue conducting policy programmes to support the effective implementation of the new Child Protection Act, in particular focusing on prevention and early intervention in cases of child abuse and domestic violence (Finland);**
- 122.40. **Continue reinforcing its efforts to protect children's rights (Georgia);**
- 122.41. **Continue to adopt measures in order to ensure the protection of the rights of the child (Romania);**
- 122.42. **Continue to implement Child Protection Act (Pakistan);**
- 122.43. **Adopt and fully implement the Welfare and Development Plan 2016-2023, in accordance with the commitment set out in paragraph 143 of its national report (Panama);**
- 122.44. **Engage a civil society in the follow-up implementation process of the UPR recommendations (Poland);**
- 122.45. **Improve the submission of reports to the treaty bodies and strengthen its capacity building in this sphere (China);**
- 122.46. **Continue to adopt measures in order to ensure the creation of a comprehensive anti-discrimination framework (Romania);**
- 122.47. **Allocate necessary resources to strengthen gender equality (Bahrain);**
- 122.48. **Operationalize/enforce legal mechanisms on ensuring gender equality (Tajikistan);**
- 122.49. **Continue efforts made towards the promotion of a culture of gender equality in society through awareness raising campaigns (Morocco);**
- 122.50. **Address gender pay gap for work of equal value (Egypt);**
- 122.51. **Take further measures aimed at achieving equal remuneration for men and women for the same work (Oman);**
- 122.52. **Provide more opportunities to women in the labor market (Oman);**
- 122.53. **Take measures, while fully respecting freedom of expression, to curtail stereotyping of minorities, particularly the Muslim community in the society (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**
- 122.54. **Adopt measures to restrict the use of stereotypes towards minorities in the media and to promote the use of minority languages in the mass-media and the press (Cuba);**
- 122.55. **Take necessary measures against discrimination based on ethnic, religious origin and language in employment and prosecute such cases (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**

- 122.56. Condemn discrimination based on ethnic origin and language in employment and take active measures to prosecute such cases (Slovenia);
- 122.57. Step up efforts to tackle the socio-economic gap and discrimination on the basis of ethnic origin, race or language, especially with regard to education and employment (Republic of Korea);
- 122.58. Prosecute cases of discrimination based on ethnic origin and language in employment (Iceland);
- 122.59. Promote equal opportunities for ethnic and national minorities, in particular in the area of education, vocational training and employment (Uzbekistan);
- 122.60. Combat discrimination on account of nationality, ethnic or religious affiliation, and sexual orientation or gender identity (United States of America);
- 122.61. Continue efforts at legislative front to combat incitement to hatred, violence and racial discrimination on the grounds of nationality, ethnicity, language, colour, religion or any other grounds, and address different existing challenges and concerns in this regard (Libya);
- 122.62. Continue legislative efforts to combat public incitement to racial discrimination and particularly against persons speaking other languages (Mexico);
- 122.63. Deepen awareness measures against racial discrimination and xenophobia, particularly by criminalizing behaviors such as incitement to hatred (Argentina);
- 122.64. Strengthen laws prohibiting religious and racial discrimination and criminalizing hate speech and incitement to religious and racial hatred (United Arab Emirates);
- 122.65. Take concrete measures to curb the incitement to hatred, violence and discrimination through the enactment of legislation, as well as policies and programmes that promote tolerance and intercultural, interracial and interreligious understanding (Malaysia);
- 122.66. Develop effective measures to eradicate racism and xenophobia, including hate speech (Botswana);
- 122.67. Prevent and combat xenophobic statements and acts targeting migrants, asylum seekers and refugees (Azerbaijan);
- 122.68. Strengthen the Penal Code as an effective instrument in combating hate speech (Norway);
- 122.69. Classify hate speech with racist content and incitement to hatred as crimes punishable under criminal law (Russian Federation);
- 122.70. Enact laws and take appropriate measures in order to criminalize hate speech (Oman);
- 122.71. Pursue 'hate speech'-offenses more vigorously by not only condemning violations but investigate, prosecute and punish violators in a consistent manner (Germany);
- 122.72. Amend the Criminal Code so that it explicitly provides sanctions against organizations propagating racist ideas as well as hate speech (Belgium);

- 122.73. Implement their “Diversity Enriches” programme to promote inclusion, tolerance and integration of people from different backgrounds, nationalities, religions, genders and sexual orientations (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 122.74. Launch a debate on issues concerning ethnic and cultural diversity aiming at promoting tolerance towards divergent cultural, religious and sexual orientations within the Estonian society (Germany);
- 122.75. Take further steps to promote tolerance, cultural diversity and integration in the country and internationally (Armenia);
- 122.76. Establish measures to promote tolerance of ethnic and religious diversity in society (United States of America);
- 122.77. Develop and implement public awareness campaigns and education programs to promote diversity and inclusion, while combatting racism and xenophobia (Canada);
- 122.78. Reform its education and training programmes, including those for the media and security officials, so that these programmes contribute more to the promotion of tolerance among nationalities and ethnic and religious groups (Belgium);
- 122.79. Revise its legislation and legal practice to ensure that sexual orientation and gender identity as motivation for criminal offence are treated as aggravating circumstance (Finland);
- 122.80. Develop and adopt legislation that would recognize explicitly hatred on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity as a motive and make it an aggravated circumstance in a crime (Bulgaria);
- 122.81. Develop and adopt legislation that would explicitly recognize hatred on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity as a motive and make it aggravated circumstances in a crime (Slovenia);
- 122.82. Thoroughly investigate and prosecute all acts of violence against ethnic and racial minorities and vulnerable groups, including LGBTI persons, and enact legislation on hate crimes based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Canada);
- 122.83. Amend the Penal Code to include a definition of torture in conformity with CAT and conduct independent and prompt investigation of all claims of torture and ill-treatment (Egypt);
- 122.84. Investigate all allegations of torture, ill-treatment and excessive use of force by law enforcement officials and bring those responsible to justice (Azerbaijan);
- 122.85. Strengthen the Criminal Code and structures established to fight against violence and discrimination against women, in particular the Office of the Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner (Belgium);
- 122.86. Combat more vigorously the phenomenon of domestic violence, in particular violence against children, including by the introduction of a coherent and clear legislative framework prohibiting corporal punishment (Hungary);
- 122.87. Continue its good efforts to address violence against women and domestic violence, in particular through the ratification of the Council of

Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Latvia);

122.88. **Continue to prioritize efforts to prevent and tackle violence against women, and work with relevant stakeholders to strengthen the national victim support system (Singapore);**

122.89. **Undertake the necessary legislative measures to criminalize domestic violence (Panama);**

122.90. **Strengthen prevention efforts, including through legislative measures, aimed against domestic violence and ensure that all professionals working with victims of domestic violence receive a regular and comprehensive training (Czech Republic);**

122.91. **Increase efforts to prevent and sanction gender violence and sexual abuse (Costa Rica);**

122.92. **Reinforce mechanisms to detect and investigate cases of domestic violence, train law enforcement officials to deal with such cases and fully implement the provisions of the National Plan for Preventing Violence for 2015-2020 (Republic of Moldova);**

122.93. **Adequate financing of the new gender equality institution, promotion of its role through public awareness campaigns, and improvement in data collection on gender equality, domestic violence, and violence against women and children (Lithuania);**

122.94. **Further promote large-scale awareness raising campaigns to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence (Italy);**

122.95. **Continue public information campaigns to combat domestic violence, and above all violence against women (Mexico);**

122.96. **Take necessary measures to prevent possible cases of corporal punishment against children in the home and in all other settings (Mexico);**

122.97. **Continue with efforts to prevent violence against children at schools and other institutions where children are present, to ensure that children are aware of their right to be protected from all forms of violence and the assistance provided if they are victims of violence (Croatia);**

122.98. **Reinforce measures to combat human trafficking (Azerbaijan);**

122.99. **Fight against trafficking in human beings (Djibouti);**

122.100. **Take further measures to prevent human trafficking, strengthen the protection of victims and provide them with redress (Serbia);**

122.101. **Take effective measures to prevent and investigate cases of human trafficking for forced prostitution and forced labor (Russian Federation);**

122.102. **Increase efforts to investigate, prosecute and convict trafficking offenders under Article 133 of the Penal Code (United States of America);**

122.103. **Take further measures to prevent trafficking in persons in investigating and prosecuting offenders and provide effective support and redress to victims, as well as step up efforts to raise awareness about human trafficking (United Arab Emirates);**

122.104. **Make efforts taken in the field of measures to improve access to justice (Iraq);**

- 122.105. **Ensure that all persons detained by the police are fully informed of their fundamental rights as from the very outset of their deprivation of liberty (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**
- 122.106. **Continue the efforts to reduce overcrowding and take action to improve the general conditions in prisons and detention centres (Sweden);**
- 122.107. **Continue working to improve detention conditions and to address the problem of overcrowding in prisons (Georgia);**
- 122.108. **Redouble its efforts to develop the Welfare Development Plan 2016-2023, with particular emphasis on the protection and promotion of the rights of older persons (Singapore);**
- 122.109. **Promote access to education, especially for minorities (Dominican Republic);**
- 122.110. **Continue to work on programs to motivate and promote education for young people (Nicaragua);**
- 122.111. **Combat school drop outs and increase the number of students who finish the secondary education (Bahrain);**
- 122.112. **Adopt measures targeted to remedy school dropouts (Djibouti);**
- 122.113. **Introduce programmes and projects within the concept of human rights education on the prevention of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity (Armenia);**
- 122.114. **Promote the realization of the right of everyone to take part in cultural life, including by ensuring the facilitation of access to cultural goods, particularly for disadvantaged and marginalized individuals and groups (Albania);**
- 122.115. **Increase the number of measures for persons with disabilities to obtain appropriate jobs (Bahrain);**
- 122.116. **Prepare, in consultation with persons with disabilities, a national strategy for the promotion and protection of rights of persons with disabilities in line with the CRPD and strengthen measures protecting persons with disabilities against discrimination, including through strengthening the Equal Treatment Act in this regard (Czech Republic);**
- 122.117. **Continue efforts in combating discriminations against persons belonging to a Russian-speaking minority (France);**
- 122.118. **Grant access to quality education for Roma children in mainstream schools (Portugal);**
- 122.119. **Assess the overall situation of the Roma community and adopt a comprehensive strategy to tackle discrimination and other problems faced by that community (Albania);**
- 122.120. **Intensify efforts to address the disadvantages faced by minority groups with regard to employment and remuneration based on language proficiency (Norway);**
- 122.121. **Expand mechanisms aimed at ensuring consultation with people belonging to national minorities and that the representatives of these minorities participate effectively in making decisions that affect them (Cuba);**

122.122. Continue strengthening the integration programs of national minorities to ensure their economic, social and cultural rights (Chile);

122.123. Continue its efforts in providing migrants and other sectors in vulnerable situation greater access to health, education, and other social services, in the face of increased number of migrants entering Europe (Philippines);

122.124. Work actively to reduce the number of stateless residents in the country (Iceland);

122.125. Continue efforts to reduce statelessness and to facilitate access to citizenship for long-term residents in Estonia (Norway);

122.126. Further strengthen its norms in conformity with the provisions of the Refugee Conventions, including procedures for asylum request, non-refoulement, access to legal advice, among others (Chile).

123. The following recommendations will be examined by Estonia which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-second session of the Human Rights Council in June 2016:

123.1. Ratify OP-CRC-IC (Montenegro) (France) (Czech Republic) (Portugal);

123.2. Consider the ratification of OP-CRC-IC (Slovakia);

123.3. Ratify OP-ICESCR (France) (Spain) (Portugal);

123.4. Consider ratifying OP-ICESCR (Ghana);

123.5. Ratify without reservations the Optional Protocol to ICESCR and opt-in to the inquiry and inter-state procedures (Bulgaria);

123.6. Ratify ICPPED and recognize the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (in accordance with articles 31 and 32 of this instrument) (France);

123.7. Ratify ICRMW (Egypt) (Azerbaijan);

123.8. Ratify ICRMW, as previously recommended (Algeria);

123.9. Sign and ratify ICRMW (Turkey);

123.10. Consider the ratification of ICRMW (Indonesia);

123.11. Move towards the ratification of ICRMW (Chile);

123.12. Consider ratifying ICRMW and ILO Convention no 189 (Philippines);

123.13. Ratify, among other international instruments, ICRMW, the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and continue its efforts to legalise the situation of persons with "undetermined nationality", guaranteeing their right to nationality (Ecuador);

123.14. Consider ratifying ICRMW (Ghana) (Uruguay);

123.15. Consider ratifying the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons of 1954 and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness of 1961 (Uruguay);

- 123.16. **Accede to the Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons 1954; and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness 1961 and ensure that language requirements relating to employment are implemented in a fair and objective manner and that the rights of ethnic and linguistic minorities are actively promoted and protected (Ireland);**
- 123.17. **Ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (1954) and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (1961) (Panama) (Australia);**
- 123.18. **Ratify the 1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons (Spain);**
- 123.19. **Consider ratifying the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Croatia);**
- 123.20. **Continue efforts towards ratification of international conventions (Morocco);**
- 123.21. **Step up its efforts towards the ratification of other international human rights treaties that it is not yet a state party (Philippines);**
- 123.22. **Continue efforts for the creation of a national human rights institution, in accordance with international standards, which contributes to the preparation of an action plan on social welfare, ensuring the inclusion and equal opportunities for all the population, with special attention to minorities (Ecuador);**
- 123.23. **Establish a body (ombudsman, commissioner or the like) as a prominent institution to protect the rights of minorities and immigrants (Germany);**
- 123.24. **Establish a post of an Ombudsman on the issues of national minorities, as recommended previously (Russian Federation);**
- 123.25. **Increase the resources allocated to the Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner as a matter of priority (Norway);**
- 123.26. **Adopt a national action plan to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (Netherlands);**
- 123.27. **Develop National Human Rights Indicators as suggested by the OHCHR, as an instrument that allows for a more precise and coherent evaluation of its national human rights policies (Portugal);**
- 123.28. **Stop discrimination in the area of employment on the grounds of ethnic origin and language and adopt active measures to prosecute such cases in the courts (Russian Federation);**
- 123.29. **Support fully to the adoption of the necessary information-educational measures to promote racial, ethnic and religious tolerance, with the emphasis on those characteristics that are results of natural-historical development (Tajikistan);**
- 123.30. **Develop a holistic strategy to allow combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other related forms of intolerance (Panama);**
- 123.31. **Initiate a comprehensive strategy to address manifestation of racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia, especially in view to preventing xenophobic acts (Turkey);**

- 123.32. **Ban organizations that encourage and incite racial discrimination (Uzbekistan);**
- 123.33. **Ban organizations which promote and instigate racial discrimination and hatred (Russian Federation);**
- 123.34. **Amend the Criminal Code to prohibit racist organizations and establish criminal liability for hate speech with racist content and incitement to hatred (Belarus);**
- 123.35. **Stop the participation of members of the Estonian armed forces in annual so called remembrance events glorifying the former legionaries of "Waffen SS" and Nazi collaborators (Russian Federation);**
- 123.36. **Review the discriminatory linguistic policy, including the work of the Language Inspectorates whose targets are mainly teachers of Russian language schools and kindergartens (Russian Federation);**
- 123.37. **Apply aggravating circumstance in hate-motivated crimes as well as prohibit and criminalize racist organizations, hate speech, incitement to hatred and the dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority and hatred (Egypt);**
- 123.38. **Legally recognize marriage between persons of the same sex (Spain);**
- 123.39. **Ensure the necessary legislation is passed to ensure the Registered Partnership Act comes into force (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 123.40. **Adopt the necessary implementation legislation for Registered Partnership Act and ensure its full implementation (Netherlands);**
- 123.41. **Build on efforts to address all forms of violence against women by enacting specific laws that prohibit domestic and sexual violence, including intimate partner violence, and by investigating all allegations of violence, prosecuting perpetrators, and ensuring victims are protected and have access to medical and legal services (Canada);**
- 123.42. **Adopt a new law to prohibit trafficking in human beings and increase protection granted to victims (Bahrain);**
- 123.43. **Respect the right to vote of all inmates (Canada);**
- 123.44. **Consider additional safeguards for minorities in the criminal justice system, namely to introduce guarantees with respect to the right to use a minority language in all stages of the criminal proceedings (Serbia);**
- 123.45. **Undertake a review of the communications surveillance laws, policies and practices with a view to upholding the right to privacy in line with international human rights law (Brazil);**
- 123.46. **Provide protection for the family as the natural and fundamental unit of the society (Egypt);**
- 123.47. **Take measures to ensure full participation of all groups of individuals in the political and public affairs of the country (Botswana);**
- 123.48. **Continue promoting and implementing its programs of social inclusion to make citizens' participation more active, and in particular the participation of minorities or excluded groups (Nicaragua);**
- 123.49. **Ensure equal representation of the titular and non-titular communities in local self-government bodies (Russian Federation);**

123.50. Further guarantee the status and rights of national ethnic and linguistic minorities on the legislative and judicial front as well as in the policy front (China);

123.51. Provide the necessary status to languages of minorities and create conditions where minorities do not fear of discrimination (Belarus);

123.52. Fulfil its obligations under the ICESCR so that the Russian-speaking linguistic minority fully enjoys the right to equal opportunities in the labour market (Iceland);

123.53. Continue improving reforms to legislation on citizenship and nationality, reducing the cost of procedures and by making the language test less demanding to the minimum indispensable (Uruguay);

123.54. Confer nationality to all stateless minor children, regardless of age or the condition or nationality of their parents (Spain);

123.55. Avoid detaining asylum seekers and ensure all asylum seekers the right to lodge asylum applications at border-crossing points and in transit zones (Brazil).

124. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Estonia was headed by Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Marina Kaljurand and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Andre Pung, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Estonia In Geneva;
 - Ms. Riia Salsa, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Estonia In Geneva;
 - Ms. Merje Mägi, 3rd Secretary, Permanent Mission of Estonia in Geneva;
 - Ms. Karmen Laus, Director of Second Division (International Organisations), Political Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Ms. Triinu Kallas, Director of International Law Division, Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Mr. Jaanus Kirikmäe, Senior Counsellor, Second Division (International Organisations), Political Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Mr. Jürgo Loo, Counsellor, International Law Division, Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Ms. Kai Härmand, Deputy Secretary General, Legislative Policy Department, Ministry of Justice;
 - Ms. Kristel Siitam-Nyiri, Deputy Secretary General, Criminal Policy Department, Ministry of Justice;
 - Ms. Anne-Ly Reimaa, Undersecretary (Cultural Diversity), Ministry of Culture;
 - Ms. Mall Saul, Chief Specialist, Cultural Diversity Department, Ministry of Culture;
 - Ms. Birgit Lüüs, Deputy Department Head For Migration, Citizenship And Migration Policy Department, Ministry Of The Interior;
 - Ms. Siiri Leskov, Adviser, Citizenship and Migration Policy Department, Ministry of the Interior;
 - Mr. Rait Kuuse, Deputy Secretary General on Social Policy, Ministry of Social Affairs;
 - Ms. Helena Pall, Adviser, Equality Policies Department, Ministry of Social Affairs;
 - Ms. Eha Lannes, Adviser, Social Welfare Department, Ministry of Social Affairs;
 - Ms. Mariann Rikka, Chief Expert, General Education Department, Ministry of Education and Research.
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