

Check against delivery!



**Universal Periodic Review of the NETHERLANDS, 31 May 2012
Intervention by the delegation of Estonia**

Estonia warmly welcomes the high level delegation of the Netherlands to the 13th session of the UPR working group and thanks them for the presentation of the national report. We are glad to note that this report has been prepared as the result of extensive dialogue with civil society and various other stakeholders.

Estonia recognizes that human rights are an important part of the Netherlands' domestic policies in all its geographical regions and an essential dimension in its foreign policy. Since the last review, the Netherlands has made advances in many human rights areas and implemented most of the recommendations. Estonia would like to commend the Netherlands particularly for the creation of children's ombudsman institution and for policies to protect the LGBT rights. The Netherlands has also been persistent in dealing with the human rights challenges of the 21st century such as protecting privacy and individual data. The Dutch government has promoted the broad discussions and has been open to different views. We encourage the Netherlands to continue their efforts to combat the incitement against minority groups in the society.

In the area of foreign policy, Estonia stresses the Netherlands' role as an international aid donor that fulfills its international aid target and the fact that human rights are an essential element in its development co-operation programmes. We commend the Netherlands for being one of the drivers of the Internet freedom agenda in global fora.

Finally, Estonia notes with appreciation that the Netherlands has become a party to nearly all the main international human rights instruments and is fully cooperating with the special procedures of the UN Human Rights Council as well as with treaty bodies. We recommend that the Netherlands proceed swiftly with the ratification of the CRPD and its Optional Protocol.

Thank you.