

ROR 1

Right of Reply, ESTONIA, HDIM 2018

WS: Democratic institutions, including democracy at the national, regional and local levels, and democratic elections.

10.09.2018 (2 min)

Mr Moderator,

I would like to exercise my right of reply and respond shortly to the strongly misleading remarks presented by the Russian Delegation.

Estonia is one of the few countries in the world where all legal residents, regardless of their citizenship, have the right to vote in the local government elections.

According to the Local Government Council Election Act of May 1996, citizens of other states and residents who have not yet chosen their citizenship have the right to vote in Local administration elections. They must be over 18 years of age and have been permanent residents for at least 5 years in the territory of the respective local government as of January 1st of the local government election year.

Let me also remind the distinguished Russian Delegation, as many times before on this forum, that citizenship can not be forced on anyone. Everyone in Estonia has the right to choose his or her citizenship. The people who have chosen to apply for Estonian citizenship acquire Estonian citizenship according to the requirements specified in the Citizenship Act.

Thank you, Mr Moderator.