**Recommendations made by Iceland to Israel**

**17th session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Delivered by H.E. Martin Eyjolfsson**

**Thank you Mr. President,**

Iceland welcomes the honourable delegation of Israel to the UPR.

Iceland notes with deep concern the implications of Israeli settlements on the human rights of the Palestinian people in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Noting that the settlements have been established through policies of dispossession, eviction, demolition and displacement - in violation of international humanitarian and human rights law - we urge Israel to halt all settlement activities and withdraw its settlers from the Occupied Palestinian Territory and to ensure full accountability for all violations. We further encourage Israel to take immediate steps to ensure the right to freedom of movement for Palestinians in the West Bank.

Iceland acknowledges the efforts of Israel to combat violence against women, including the adoption of legislation on sexual offenses. However, we express concern at the prevalence of domestic and sexual violence against women and girls, particularly against women belonging to minority communities. Iceland encourages Israel to ensure the effective implementation of existing legislation and to establish a constructive dialogue with the Palestinian authority on the issue. Furthermore, Iceland encourages Israel to withdraw its reservations to CEDAW in order to eliminate discrimination against women in all matters concerning marriage and family relations.

Finally, we strongly urge Israel to re-establish full cooperation with the Human Rights Council as well as the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

**I thank you.**