

Recommendations made by Iceland to Turkey
21st session of the Universal Periodic Review

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the honourable delegation of Turkey to the UPR.

My Delegation recognises important steps taken since the last review – including Constitutional amendments - to bring Turkey closer in line with its international human rights commitments.

Iceland is nevertheless concerned that the overall human rights situation in Turkey has worsened in certain areas since 2010.

On **freedom of expression**, Iceland is concerned about the criminalisation of non-violent dissenting speech and restrictions on social media – including steps taken to block Twitter and YouTube in 2014.

More also needs to be done to strengthen the **human rights situation of women** in Turkey. My Delegation applauds Turkey for becoming the first country to sign and ratify the Council of Europe Convention against Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women. However, the female labour force participation remains too low and domestic violence, including the high number of women killed by spouses and family members, is unacceptable and of grave concern.

Iceland respectfully makes the following recommendations to Turkey:

- Fully align the Internet law with international and European standards.
- Enact comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, including a clear definition of discrimination against women
- Strengthen the implementation effectiveness of Turkey's 2012 domestic law on preventing violence against women.