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ICELAND

Statement by Mr. Martin Eyjólfsson



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Iceland welcomes the delegation of Lebanon and acknowledges the progress made on human rights since their 2010 Review.

Iceland acknowledges that, according to UNHCR, Lebanon is the country with the highest per capita concentration of refugees worldwide. We further acknowledge the Herculean efforts of giving shelter and sustenance to more than 1.3 million refugees fleeing the civil war in Syria. We would encourage the Government to ensure that all refugees born in Lebanon receive a birth certificate.

My Delegation is deeply concerned by reports of restrictive policies still affecting Palestinian refugees. In particular we note that Palestinian refugees face discrimination and barriers from practicing in the labor market.

Iceland recommends to the Government of Lebanon the following:

1. Remove discriminatory restrictions on access to the labor market for Palestinian refugees.
2. Accede to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and to its additional Protocol.