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***ICELAND***

***Statement by Mr. Martin Eyjólfsson***



***UPR 24. Session – January 2016***

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Iceland welcomes our friends from Estonia and we thank them for their comprehensive National Report.

My Delegation is encouraged by certain measures aimed at combatting child statelessness. However, note that recent amendments to the Citizenship Law from 1 January 2016 do not extend to children between 16 and 18, nor to children born outside the country to non-citizens of Estonia.

On the issue of minorities, we commend the Estonian authorities for taking meaningful steps in recent years to better integrate ethnic and linguistic minorities. We noted in the intervention of Minister Kaljurand that access to high quality media material in Russian is being provided for and we encourage the Government to accelerate its efforts to ensure a coherent framework for persons belonging to the Russian-speaking linguistic minority.

Iceland recommends to the Government of Estonia the following:

1. Work actively to reduce the number of non-citizens in the country.
2. Fulfil its obligations under the ICESCR so that the Russian-speaking linguistic minority fully enjoys the right to equal opportunities in the labour market
3. Prosecute cases of discrimination based on ethnic origin and language in employment.