**UPR 26, November 1, 2016**

**Recommendations by Canada for Iceland’s UPR**

Canada congratulates Iceland for achieving the best performance in the World Economic Forum’s Global Gender Gap index for the seventh year, and encourages it in its continuing efforts to close the gender pay gap by 2022.

Canada recommends that Iceland:

1. Allow for complaints on grounds of discrimination to be taken up by existing mechanisms for the protection of human rights, consistent with procedures available for gender-based discrimination cases, until a National Human Rights Institution compliant with the Paris Principles is established;
2. Pursue the development and adoption of a comprehensive national human rights action plan to strengthen consistency and cooperation in the implementation of related policies and programs;
3. Take additional measures to fully protect the human rights of all persons with disabilities, including to preclude involuntary hospitalization and coercive health care approaches, to prioritize free and fully informed consent for medical treatment, and to promote the involvement of persons with disabilities in decision-making related to their well-being; and
4. While continuing to protect freedom of opinion and expression consistent with Article 73 of the Constitution, maintain Article 233 (a) of the General Penal Code and Article 27 of the Media Act which explicitly prohibit hate speech and direct incitement to hatred.

**Observations**

Following its government’s decision to welcome a higher number of refugees, Iceland is to be commended for resettling refugees referred by the UNHCR, including those resettled recently from Syria. Canada appreciates its on-going exchanges with Iceland on best practices with respect to integration. Canada congratulates Iceland for its high rate of participation of immigrants in the labour market.