**Universal Periodic Review 26 – Iceland**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Thank you, Mr President,

The Netherlands welcomes the delegation of Iceland and appreciates the comprehensive national report. The Netherlands appreciates the very high standards Iceland upholds in its protection and promotion of human rights.

Mr President,

The Netherlands recommends Iceland to:

1. Ratify the Council of Europe ‘Istanbul’ Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.
2. Continue its proactive efforts in order to ensure full gender equality in education and the labour market.

Mr President,

We offer these recommendations based on the following considerations.

We note that Iceland has signed but not yet ratified the Council of Europe’s Istanbul Convention on Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. The Netherlands thanks Iceland for its stated intention to ratify the Convention and encourages Iceland to do so without delay.

Iceland has a remarkably strong track record in the field of gender equality, and serves as a positive model for many states. However, as Iceland rightly states in its national report, there is always room for improvement. This relates to equal chances for men and women in education, but also in the labour market, where the gender pay gap is not yet fully eradicated. We encourage Iceland to continue its remarkable efforts on gender equality and share best practices in this field.

Thank you.