**North Macedonia**

**thursday 2 may 2024, 14:30 – 18:00**

**Speaking time: 105 seconds**

**Statement by Iceland (no 4 of 71)**

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of North Macedonia and its national report.

In the spirit of constructive engagement, Iceland recommends the following:

1. Adopt and implement a comprehensive Gender Equality Law in line with international standards.
2. Implement the ICPD25 commitment to introduce a special national preventive program and budget to support sexual and reproductive health.
3. Prohibit child marriage under all circumstances.
4. Align the Law for Social Protection with the articles of the 2021 Law on Prevention and Protection from Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.
5. Adopt and implement a transparent administrative procedure for legal gender recognition based on self-determination.
6. Secure uninterrupted access to trans-affirming healthcare based on the principles of de-pathologization, non-discrimination and in line with international human rights standards.
7. Incorporate a comprehensive hate speech definition in the Criminal Code that explicitly includes SOGI on protected grounds.

I wish North Macedonia all success for its review.

I thank you.