**Universal Periodic Review 40 – Iceland
Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks the government of Iceland for the presentation of its national report.

We welcome Iceland’s efforts in further advancing human rights by ratifying the Istanbul Convention, passing two anti-discrimination acts, establishing an exemplary equal pay management system, and starting the process of establishing a National Human Rights Institution.

We are however concerned about occurrences of gender-based and sexual violence and wish to encourage Iceland to continue efforts to establish a National Human Rights Institution.

The Netherlands recommends Iceland:

1. To ensure adequate funding for preventative measures against gender-based and sexual violence, counselling and support for victims, and training for law enforcement personnel.
2. To establish a National Human Rights Institution as soon as possible, while making use of existing civil society know-how and expertise.

Thank you, Mr. President.