*Check against delivery*

**UPR40 – ICELAND**

**Statement by Slovakia**

25 January 2022

President,

Slovakia commends Iceland for taking a number of positive steps towards human rights related issues and in particular fight towards sexual violence on both national and international level.

We highly value efforts by Iceland in narrowing the gender pay gap *(with the world’s highest coefficient of 89,6%)*.

We note with satisfaction Iceland´s initiative of creating the Governmental Steering Committee on Human Rights.

Slovakia offers 5 recommendations to Iceland:

1. provide legislative framework for the Icelandic Human Rights Centre to fulfil the Paris Principles;
2. reinforce implementation of two anti-discriminatory laws from 2018: on Equal Treatment Irrespective of Racial and Ethnic Origin and on Equal Treatment on the Labour Market;
3. ratify the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure;
4. ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD);
5. ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

We wish Iceland a successful review.

Thank you, President.