Albania warmly welcomes the delegation of Iceland and thanks it for the presentation today.

We commend Iceland for its demonstrated commitment to promote and protect human rights at the national and international level, and the active contribution to the work of the Human Rights Council, the UPR Working Group and various human rights mechanisms. We welcome the establishment of the Government Offices Steering Committee on Human Rights, and encourage Iceland to expedite the establishment of an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles.

Albania notes with appreciation that gender equality remains a key priority for the Icelandic government. We welcome the adoption of the new Act on Equal Status and Equal Rights Irrespective of Gender, as well as Iceland’s ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention).

Albania recommends that Iceland:

1. Step up efforts to ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and the UN Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances.
2. Consider amending the General Penal Code to include the racist motivation of an offence as a specific aggravating circumstance.

We wish Iceland a successful review.