Thank you Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the government of Botswana to the UPR.

We would like to acknowledge Botswana’s constructive work as a recent member of the Human Rights Council. Iceland commends Botswana for progress in implementing the recommendations it accepted during its last Universal Periodic Review. In particular, Iceland welcomes that the Government has introduced a “Women’s Economic Empowerment Programme”.

Notwithstanding the positive steps taken Iceland would like to make the following recommendations to the Government of Botswana:

1. To impose a country-wide moratorium on the death penalty that immediately halts all sentences and executions, with a view toward complete abolition of the death penalty;
2. To decriminalize same-sex sexual activities and ensure non-discrimination in accordance with Botswana’s domestic and international human rights obligations.

I wish Botswana all success for its UPR.

I thank you.