**Statement by Iceland**

**UPR31-Central African Republic**

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of the Central African Republic.

My delegation is deeply concerned about the current situation in the CAR and encourages the government to continue its work in addressing the human rights challenges facing the country.

My delegation is worried over the large and increasing number of acts of rape, sexual slavery, forced marriage and other forms of violence against women perpetrated by armed groups and civilians.

Finally we welcome that the CAR accepted the recommendation from the previous cycle to abolish death penalty, which has not been used for many years.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Abolish the death penalty for all crimes and accede to the Second Optional Protocol of the ICCPR.
2. Refrain from appointing individuals suspected of human rights abuses and crimes under international law to positions where they may commit further abuses or crimes.
3. Develop and implement a national strategy to combat and respond to sexual violence, including conflict-related sexual violence.
4. Adopt legal provisions criminalizing marital rape.

I wish the Central African Republic all success for its review,

I thank you