**Statement by Iceland**

**UPR31-Congo**

Mr President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Congo.

We welcome the ceasefire agreement between the Government and armed groups to end the crisis in the Pool region.

We commend Congo for the strategies adopted to reduce the high maternal and child mortality rates, to manage childhood illness, to improve the treatment of malnutrition and to reduce malaria.

However, my delegation regrets that the constitution does not include a general prohibition of discrimination, including for the protection and promotion of the human rights of LGBTI persons.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Abolish the death penalty for all crimes and accede to the Second Optional Protocol of the ICCPR.
2. Adopt a comprehensive law punishing all forms of violence against women, including marital rape, female genital mutilation and the sexual abuse and exploitation of women in prison and in conflict areas.
3. Criminalize acts of violence and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

I wish Congo all success for its review,

I thank you.