**Statement by Iceland**

**UPR32 - New Zealand**

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of New Zealand.

We welcome the efforts made by New Zealand in the advancement of human rights. We are pleased with our cooperation on the advancement of gender equality, protection of the rights of LGBTI persons, as well as persons with disabilities and welcome developments articulated in the national report.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Remove abortion from the Crimes Act of 1961 and amend the Contraception, Sterilisation and Abortion Act of 1977 so abortion is decriminalized and implement recommendation “Model A” from the Law Commission report on “alternative approaches to abortion law”.
2. Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility in line with international human rights standards.
3. Continue to strengthen efforts to combat domestic and all forms of gender-based violence, including sexual violence, particularly in relation to Maori and Pasifika women and girls, as well as women and girls with disabilities.
4. Add gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristic as specifically prohibited grounds of discrimination in Article 21 of the Human Rights Act of 1993.

I wish New Zealand all success for its review.

I thank you