**Statement by Iceland**

**UPR32 - Afghanistan**

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Afghanistan.

Iceland notes positive achievements in combatting corruption, signing of the Law on the Prevention and Prohibition of Harassment of Women and Children, and the prohibition of virginity testing.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Take all measures to protect and support journalists, human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, humanitarian workers and civil society organizations; investigate all attacks against them; and bring the perpetrators to justice.
2. Refer cases of violence against women to the criminal justice system, not to mediation or traditional dispute resolution mechanisms.
3. Take concrete steps to realize the right to primary and secondary education for girls by ending discriminatory practices, recruiting more female teachers, and ensuring that all schools have adequate boundary walls, toilets and access to safe water.
4. Ensure the active participation of women in the peace process.

I wish Afghanistan all success for its review.

I thank you