**Statement by Iceland**

**UPR33 - Albania**

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Albania.

We welcome steps taken by Albania in enacting criminal and civil laws that address domestic violence and note the increase in criminal prosecutions of domestic violence in recent years, as well as the increase in prosecutions for repeat offenses and for violating civil orders for protection.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Ensure that police are adequately trained and have skills to respond, investigate and properly manage cases of violence against women, as well as to seek orders of protection for victims.
2. Provide continuing training to police, judges, health professionals, victim support services, and other professional institutions working with victims of violence against women and domestic violence.
3. Ensure the full implementation of the Civil Law “On Measures against Violence in Family Relations” prohibiting the use of mediation or conciliation in cases concerning domestic violence.
4. Amend the Family Law to provide legal recognition for same-sex partnerships and adopt provisions that allow for legal gender recognition of trans individuals.
5. Promote and protect the human rights of LGBTI persons and take measures to combat structural discrimination.

I wish Albania all success for its review.

I thank you