**Statement by Iceland**

**UPR33 - DPRK**

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

We welcome the easing of tensions on the Korean peninsula in the past year and hope for progress on the peace and denuclearization agenda. It is however regrettable that while some positive steps are being made, the serious human rights situation on the ground remains unchanged.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Fully implement the recommendations made by the Commission of Inquiry, including releasing all political prisoners and allowing for the establishment of independent media.
2. Immediately release the remaining crew and passengers, including Hwang Won, abducted in 1969 during the hijacking of Korean Air Lines flight YS-11.
3. Review laws, including the Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Women, to include definitions of violence against women, including rape and trafficking of women.
4. Prohibit and effectively end exploitative practices that require women who support families through private economy to contribute quota of goods, money and unpaid forced labour for the government and military investments (Inminban).
5. Abolish the death penalty.

I wish the DPRK all success for its review.

I thank you