**Statement by Iceland**

**UPR33 - Nicaragua**

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Nicaragua.

Although the mass demonstrations have subsided, we note that the expulsion of international human rights mechanisms, the crackdown on civil society, and the persecution of human rights defenders and journalists are still ongoing.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Immediately halt the persecution of political opponents and swiftly release all individuals who have been arbitrarily detained.
2. Revoke anti-terrorism laws that allow for the persecution of human rights defenders, including women and LGBTI defenders, journalists and peaceful protesters.
3. Ensure that all human rights defenders who engage with multilateral institutions and international and regional human rights bodies can do so without fear of persecution or violence and that any allegations or instances of reprisals are promptly investigated.
4. Conduct thorough investigations into all acts of violence against journalists and media outlets, including the assassination on 21 April 2018 of Ángel Eduardo Gahona, and hold the perpetrators accountable.

I wish Nicaragua all success for its review.

I thank you