**Statement by Iceland**

**UPR34 - Gambia**

Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Gambia.

We welcome the steps outlined in the report and the significant advances that have been made since the new Government took office, including with regards to the death penalty and look forward to its formal abolishment.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Urgently review and bring in conformity with international and regional human rights obligations restrictive laws on the right to freedom of expression, including the relevant sections of the Criminal Code.
2. Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, and repeal any discriminatory laws.
3. Effectively implement the Domestic Violence Act and the Sexual Offences Act by adopting the necessary regulations and allocating adequate resources.
4. Amend legislation to decriminalize abortion in all circumstances as well as ensure that safe and legal abortion services and post-abortion care are available.
5. Reduce the high rate of maternal and infant mortality, including by ensuring the availability of comprehensive sexual, reproductive, and child health services, and that all births are assisted by a skilled birth attendant.

I wish Gambia all success for its review.

I thank you