**Statement by Iceland**

**UPR35 - Lesotho**

Madam/Mr. President,

Iceland welcomes the delegation of Lesotho.

We welcome the national report and the steps outlined therein and hope for their continued implementation, in particular the commitment demonstrated to address gender-based violence and the changes made to ensure equality regarding the acquisition of citizenship.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Fully abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.
2. Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex and expand its anti-discrimination legislation, to include a prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.
3. Amend Section 3 of the Marriage Act of 1974 for it to be inclusive of same-sex couples.
4. Enact the Domestic Violence Bill, support its immediate implementation and strengthen coordinated essential services and referral pathways between the health, social services, police and justice sectors in order to respond to gender-based violence.

I wish Lesotho all success for its review.

I thank you