**Statement by Iceland**

**UPR36 - Belarus**

Madam President,

We reiterate our concern over the recent election in Belarus being neither free nor fair. The subsequent use of widespread violence against peaceful demonstrators, journalists and other media workers, as well as other systematic human rights abuses, have been deeply troubling.

Iceland makes the following recommendations:

1. Fully abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.
2. Immediately release unlawfully detained persons and enable an independent, transparent and impartial international investigation into all allegations of torture, sexual and gender-based violence and other ill-treatment of detained persons.
3. Ensure the right of people to peaceful assembly and the ability to peacefully protest, without limiting the rights of all participants, including LGBTI+ people.
4. Repeal laws and policies on mandatory testing for HIV, policies requiring health-care providers to reporting certain groups to law enforcement, and criminalization of HIV transmission.

I wish Belarus all success for its review.

I thank you