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ORAL STATEMENT
Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports: Iceland

UN Human Rights Council
50th session
13 June – 8 July 2022

Mr. President,

As part of a national civil society coalition (the reporting group¹), we welcome Iceland's engagement in the UPR process and its full or partial acceptance of 220 out of 230 recommendations.²

Particularly welcome is Iceland's decision to establish a strong, independent and effective National Human Rights Institution.³ We underline the importance that the Institution must be independent from the executive functions of government and that it requires experienced, trained and skilled staff. The Institution must be provided with adequate funding and resources to be able to fully carry out its mandate.

Mr. President,

The reporting group welcomes Iceland's support for recommendations concerning the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.⁴ We urge

¹ The Icelandic Human Rights Centre, the Women's Rights Association, Barnaheill - Save the Children Iceland, Humanists Iceland, the National Association of Intellectual Disabilities and Amnesty International.

² UN Human Rights Council, Addendum to the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Iceland, UN Doc. A/HRC/50/7/Add.1, 8 April 2022.

³ UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Iceland and its Addendum, A/HRC/50/7, 6 April 2022 and A/HRC/50/7/Add.1, recommendations 121.56 (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Lebanon, Australia, Slovenia, Mongolia), 121.57 (Qatar, Senegal), 121.58 (Egypt), 121.59 (Germany), 121.60 (Azerbaijan), 121.61 (Costa Rica), 121.62 (Ireland), 121.63 (Mauritius), 121.64 (Netherlands), 121.65 (Turkey), 121.66 (Argentina), 121.67 (Niger), 121.68 (Luxembourg), 121.69 (Russian Federation), 121.70 (India, Nepal), 121.71 (Algeria), 121.72 (France), 121.73 (Poland), 121.74 (Mexico, Ukraine), 121.75 (Georgia, Montenegro, Pakistan, Iraq), 121.76 (Bangladesh), 121.77 (Canada), 121.78 (Chile), 121.79 (Dominican Republic), 121.80 (Greece), 121.81 (Djibouti), 121.82 (Ecuador), 121.83 (Indonesia), 121.84 (Jordan), 121.85 (Malaysia), 121.86 (Philippines), 121.87 (Portugal), 121.88 (Togo), 121.89 (Tunisia), 121.90 (Lithuania), 121.91 (Slovakia).

⁴ A/HRC/50/7 recommendations 121.4 (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, 121.21 (Australia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Lithuania, Slovakia, Namibia), 121.22 (Malta, Viet Nam), 121.23 (Mexico).

the government to speed up the process as much as possible.

The Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights is an important step in the effort to ensure access to justice for victims of human rights violations. We regret that Iceland noted recommendations to ratify this Optional Protocol and encourage Iceland to ratify it as soon as possible.⁵

The reporting group urges the Government to adopt already proposed legislative measures,⁶ in order to fight gender-based, domestic, and sexual violence and strengthen access to justice for women victims of violence.

Mr. President,

We are also disappointed that Iceland noted recommendations to ratify other international treaties, such as the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families⁷ and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid⁸ and urge that these recommendations are implemented without delay.

Finally, we encourage Iceland to implement supported recommendations as soon as possible and urge the government to submit a mid-term report on progress towards implementation of supported recommendations and to use an Item 6 General Debate to bring this to the attention of UN Member States.

Thank you.

⁵ A/HRC/50/7 recommendations 121.17 (Cyprus, Portugal, Slovakia).

⁶ Expert report by Hildur Fjólá Antonisdóttir commissioned by the Icelandic Government, May 2019, <https://www.stjornarradid.is/lisalib/getfile.aspx?itemid=c9ee2c0c-927f-11e9-9442-005056bc530c>.

⁷ A/HRC/50/7 recommendations 121.12 (Bangladesh, Turkey, Fiji, Philippines), 121.13 (Azerbaijan), 121.14 (Togo), 121.15 (Egypt), 121.16 (Indonesia).

⁸ A/HRC/50/7 recommendations 121.25 (Islamic Republic of Iran).