**Statement**

Thank you Mr./Madam Chair

I am pleased to deliver this statement on behalf of Iceland.

We appreciate para 33 on domestic financial sector development, enabling environments and access to financing. In particular, we would like to emphasize the point that increasing women‘s full, equal and meaningful participation in the workforce and in leadership positions can drive significant economic growth and foster sustainable development.

We would also like to highlight that developing domestic financial sectors and capital markets is a crucial aspect of leveraging the private sector more broadly to achieve sustainable development, and we welcome the constructive language on this.

In this regard, we would like to highlight an example from our own experience. Last year, Iceland became the first country in the world to issue gender bonds as a way to leverage capital market financing for projects conducive to gender equality. This is an example of innovative financing that we suggest to add this to the list of thematic bonds in para 34 c.

Thank you.