

**Statement by the Icelandic Delegation  
Beijing+20 Regional Review meeting  
6 – 7 November 2014**

Item 5 - Closing gender gaps through economic and social policies

Engaging Men and Boys to Participate in the Work towards Achieving Gender Equality. At the United Nations Iceland and Suriname have partnered to lead a friends' group of countries to galvanize support for advancing gender equality and to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Iceland finds it particularly important to bring men and boys to the table in discussions on gender equality - in a positive and constructive way. Iceland and Suriname will thus convene a conference on Men and Gender Equality at UN headquarters in January 2015, providing a platform for men to discuss how they can contribute to advancing gender equality. The conference aims at rallying men and boys into a proactive commitment to gender equality and at changing the discourse among men and boys and to address unhealthy stereotypes of masculinity. A special focus will be on ending violence against women - the most pervasive human rights violation.

Item 9 - The way forward: gender equality for inclusive and sustainable societies

A Stand-Alone Goal on Gender Equality in The New Development Framework

Gender equality needs to be mainstreamed throughout the new Post 2015 Development Framework and Sustainable Development Goals. Iceland supports the emphasizes of UN Women for the need for a stand-alone goal on gender equality and women's empowerment. This goal should take a transformative approach that addresses the structural causes of gender inequality, and tackle issues that were overlooked in the current framework, such as violence against women, women's sexual and reproductive health and rights, women's leadership and economic rights, and early and forced marriage. Iceland calls for ambitious targets, with a view to realising the full spectrum of women's rights, in line with CEDAW and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

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