The Permanent Mission of Iceland to the United Nations

Statement by
R.E. Ambassador Gunnar PaIsson
Permanent Representative

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This year marks in many ways a milestone in the long march towards gender equality and women's empowerment.

In my own country, we celebrate that ninety five years have gone by since women gained the right to vote and recall that Iceland was the first democracy to elect a woman president thirty years ago. Today, our government is headed by OUf first female prime minister. Iceland's strong record on women's participation and representation in the political process has contributed to OUf remaining a leader in gender-equality, as witnessed by the World Economic Forum's most recent Global Gender Gap Report.

Also, on the day ofthe United Nations, 24" October this year, it will be 35 years since

many countries, women are excluded or unable to participate in the political process.

Little can be achieved without cooperation at all levels, where the United Nations agencies could render useful service in