

**Economic and Social Council**

Distr.: General
28 May 2019

Original: English

2019 session

26 July 2018–24 July 2019

Agenda item 19 (e)

**Social and human rights questions: United Nations
High Commissioner for Refugees**

**Note verbale dated 13 May 2019 from the Permanent Mission of
Iceland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iceland to the United Nations has the honour to communicate the interest of the Government of Iceland in becoming a member of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The Republic of Iceland acceded to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees in November 1955 and the 1967 Protocol thereto in April 1968. Iceland's national legislation regarding refugees and asylum seekers is based on the principles of the Convention and existing international law, standards and human rights treaties. Iceland has, over the years, endeavoured to be a reliable partner for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees by contributing to the provision of emergency relief and humanitarian assistance to refugees and other displaced persons in areas of crisis and conflict. Furthermore, Iceland commits itself to sharing the burden of and responsibility for hosting refugees and welcomes every year some quota refugees to Iceland, based on cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner.

The Permanent Mission kindly requests the Secretary-General to inform the Economic and Social Council of the request of the Republic of Iceland to become a member of the Executive Committee and hopes that its request will be given favourable consideration.

