

17<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Mexico

Statement by Austria

23 October 2013

We warmly welcome H.E. ... and the delegation of Mexico and thank them for the presentation and the national report.

Austria commends the numerous efforts undertaken since the last review, including legislative measures and policies to change the situation on the ground, such as the 2013 Victims Act for redressing human rights violations or the 2012 Law to protect Human Rights Defenders and Journalists.

Austria remains however concerned about the still high number of reported threats, violence, attacks and killings of journalists and the ongoing impunity for such crimes. In this context, we would be interested to know how many sentences have been issued against perpetrators since the last review.

We acknowledge your efforts to eradicate discrimination against women and hope for a comprehensive implementation of the General Act on Women’s Access to a Life Free of Violence. We would be grateful for further information on the practical measures to strengthen the national mechanisms on this issue.

Another area of concern remains the criminal justice system and the often problematic situation in prisons, including the application of *arraigo*. Which measures did you undertake to address the delay in penal procedures?

Austria offers the following recommendations:

- Guarantee a safe, free and independent environment for journalists and ensure that all cases of threats, violence, attacks and killings against journalists are investigated by independent and impartial bodies;
- Continue your efforts to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women, and bring the perpetrators to justice, while ensuring women’s equal access to justice and improving support services, including for indigenous women;
- Take as soon as possible effective measures to bring conditions of detention in line with international standards, in particular to reduce overcrowding and to abolish the system of *arraigo* and promote non-custodial measures;

I thank you.