

18th Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Vietnam**Statement by Austria**

Geneva, 28 January 2013

We warmly welcome H.E. ... and the delegation of Vietnam and thank them for their presentation. Austria acknowledges the efforts undertaken so far to implement the recommendations of the previous cycle.

We are worried about the high number of arrests of journalists, bloggers and peaceful activists. In addition, the recent adopted decree 72 enhances restrictions to the right to freedom of expression. We are also seriously concerned about reports that the government actively prevented human rights activists from travelling to Geneva.

Austria is extremely concerned about the high number of persons on death row and that there are still offences which retain the death penalty as an optional punishment such as violent crimes or national security offences. In this context, we urge you to immediately impose a moratorium on executions.

Finally, while we acknowledge the positive achievements in combating violence against women and child prostitution, we are alarmed by reports of the high persistence of these two crimes in the country. Could you elaborate more on how you intend to effectively address this issue?

Austria offers the following recommendations:

- Guarantee the right to freedom of expression both offline and online and bring the recently adopted decree 72 in line with international human rights obligations;
- Provide public information on how many detention camps, including administrative detention centres for drug treatment, the police, the military and the Ministry of Labour have in fact set up, how many persons are detained therein, as well as the list of all forms of work in which detainees in the centres are involved;
- Immediately adopt a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolishing it;
- Issue a standing invitation to the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council;
- Ratify CAT and its optional protocol;

I thank you.