**UN Human Rights Council**

**27th Session of the UPR Working Group**

**3rd Cycle Review Review Tunisia, 2 May 2017**

Statement by AUSTRIA

Austria welcomes H.E. NN and the delegation of Tunisia and expresses its appreciation for the national report as well as for the good and constructive cooperation we enjoy with Tunisia in the Human Rights Council.

Since the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review in 2012, Tunisia has made remarkable progress regarding the protection and advancement of human rights. The Constitution adopted in 2014 clearly upholds the core principles of human rights – now, these principles need to be effectively translated into everyday reality for Tunisians. We also note with great appreciation that the Tunisian League of Human Rights was part of the Quartet which was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 2015.

Tunisia was the first country in the region to withdraw its reservations against the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and we welcome the efforts Tunisia is making towards the implementation of the rights of women. Austria strongly encourages Tunisia however to step up these efforts, particularly with a view to effectively protecting women against sexual violence.

We also welcome amendments made to the Code of Criminal Procedure to address concerns regarding torture and other ill-treatment and call on Tunisia to continue these reforms in order to fully comply with international human rights standards.

Accordingly Austria would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Abolish the death penalty and consider withdrawing Tunisia’s reservations on the second optional protocol of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as   
   announced by the government.
2. Strengthen existing legislation to effectively eliminate gender-based violence including domestic violence with a view to better protecting victims and holding perpetrators accountable.
3. Bring the definition of torture in Tunisian law in line with the UN Convention against Torture and focus on best practise human rights training for police and security personnel.

Thank you very much.