**45th session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Mexico**

24 January 2024

**Statement by Austria**

Thank you, Mr. President,

Austria welcomes the Delegation of Mexico and the progress achieved since the last cycle – for example the steps towards the full realization of women’s rights, including the Supreme Court judgement on the unconstitutionality of criminal penalties for abortion.

Austria offers the following recommendations:

1. Ensure the effective functioning of the Federal Protection Mechanism for journalists and human rights defenders, in particular by implementing OHCHR’s recommendations and developing a national strategy for all levels of government to effectively prevent attacks against journalists and human rights defenders and ensure independent investigations;
2. Continue efforts to eliminate legal and procedural uncertainties in the application of the gender violence alert mechanism, in particular towards harmonization at the federal level;
3. Implement the recommendations of the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances and continue to strengthen access to truth and justice for victims and their families;
4. Establish external, independent and civilian mechanisms to ensure the accountability of the armed forces.

Thank you.

*max time 1min*