**47th session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Albania**

4 November 2024

**Statement by Austria**

Thank you, Madam / Mr. (Vice-)President,

Austria welcomes the Delegation of Albania and commends the progress achieved since the last cycle, in particular legislative reforms regarding domestic violence and fighting corruption in public administration. We welcome your active engagement in implementing recommendations received and will continue to support your efforts.

In order to consolidate the progress achieved, we believe continued efforts are needed to ensure implementation of existing commitments and to strengthen institutional mechanisms.

Austria offers the following recommendations:

1. Continue efforts on implementation of legislation on property rights and registration, inter alia, by digitalization and publication of cadaster maps, as well as implementing decisions by the European Court of Human Rights.
2. Strengthen efforts to safeguard freedom of expression and independence of the media, to ensure a safe environment for investigative journalists and their protection from intimidation and attacks.
3. Take legislative and institutional measures to comprehensively address all forms of violence against women, particularly femicide.
4. Conduct a full review of the Family Code and enact legislation to prohibit child, early and forced marriage, ensuring that exceptions to the minimum marriage age of 18 are eliminated.
5. Continue efforts to proactively fight corruption in public administration, inter alia, by ensuring the timely conclusion of the vetting of judges and prosecutors, the full-staffing and adequate financial resources of anti-corruption institutions.

Thank you.

*Time limit: 1 min 35*