**48th Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Slovenia**

28 January 2025

**Statement by Austria**

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

Austria welcomes the delegation of Slovenia and commends the progress achieved since the last cycle, including the recognition of sign language in the constitution, the adoption of a national Roma integration strategy and the increase of funding for the Roma community.

We acknowledge the importance Slovenia attaches to the protection of national minorities and look forward to concrete outcomes of the dialogue with the German-speaking minority, which – unlike the Hungarian and Italian minorities – is still not recognized as such under the Slovenian Constitution and relevant legislation.

While recognizing that the majority of cases of denationalization have been concluded, we observe with concern that a considerable number of proceedings are still pending – 34 years after adoption of the Denationalization Act.

Austria offers the following recommendations:

1. Continue to strengthen the independence of journalists and the media, including by further improving national legislation;
2. Set concrete steps and a timeframe to conclude the last pending denationalization proceedings;
3. Enhance the dialogue with the German-speaking minority to a regular schedule resulting in concrete steps to support the minority and preserve their culture and language, including by allocating additional resources and implementing the recommendations by the Council of Europe;
4. [Continue improving the situation of the Roma community, particularly in south-eastern Slovenia, including access to adequate housing].

Thank you.

*Time limit: 1 min 15 sec*