37th Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Lebanon

Statement by AUSTRIA

Austria warmly welcomes the delegation of Lebanon and thanks them for their presentation and the national report.

We express our deep solidarity with the people of Lebanon who look back at an especially difficult year. We appreciate positive steps taken by the government since the last UPR review, especially concerning the registration of refugee children, the introduction of the anti-torture law of 2017 and the amendment of article 47 of the criminal code.

We recommend:

* Repeal or amend Decree No. 15 of 1925 on Lebanese Nationality and adapt or adopt legislation to ensure women’s equal rights with men to pass on their nationality to their foreign spouses and children.
* Ensure that the Standard Unified Contract enters into force without delay and introduce a system of effective oversight and enforcement.
* Repeal the provision of Art. 534 of the Lebanese Penal Code criminalising “sexual acts against nature”.
* Investigate all allegations of use of excessive force by security forces while handling protests and demonstrations.