**37th Session of the UPR Working Group**

**Statement on the Review of Austria**

22 January 2021 at 9:00

**Thank you Mr./Mme. (Vice) President,**

Afghanistan cordially welcomes the distinguished Austrian delegation.

**We welcome the improvement in reception conditions, the decrease in number of detentions pending deportation, as well as hosting the Istanbul Process meeting.**

**However we equally remain concerned about the “controlled transfer of migrants” without sufficient safeguards and the rise of hatred against minorities, migrants and asylum seekers.**

**In a constructive spirit, my delegation recommends Austria to:**

1. Reinforce the capacity of the Federal Office for Immigration to process refugee claims of asylum seekers,ensuring that the principle of non-refoulement is observed at all times.
2. Reduce legal and administrative barriers to family reunification and effective access to the labor market for the beneficiaries of international protection.
3. Prosecute all cases of hate crimes and attacks against refugee and asylum-seekers, while strengthening efforts to combat racial or religious hatred, including through ensuring justice and adoption of a national action plan.

Finally, we wish Austria every success in the UPR review process.

**I thank you!**