**UPR37**

**Austria**

*22 January 2021*

**STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

The Czech Republic thanks the delegation of Austria for its comprehensive presentation. We acknowledge the generally high standard of human rights protection in the country and positive developments since the last UPR. In particular, we commend Austria for having ratified almost all UN core human rights instruments and maintaining a standing invitation to the special procedure mandate holders. We appreciate concrete measures to combat discrimination and intolerance, such as the National Strategy to Prevent and Combat Any Forms of Antisemitism, as well as efforts to improve detention conditions, including detention of children and minors. We also praise the active role of Austria in support of human rights worldwide and applaud its exemplary leadership of the Human Rights Council during the last year.

We offer the following **recommendations**:

1. (First), we recommend to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the communications procedure;
2. (Second), we recommend to ensure equal opportunities in the area of education and leisure activities for children and youth, including of non-Austrian background, as well as to ensure full implementation of the Constitution provision on indigenous minorities, including through systemic support to bilingual schools;
3. (And finally), we recommend to pursue efforts to combat hate speech and violence on the internet while respecting the freedom of expression.

Thank you.