**Universal Periodic Review of Austria**

**Statement of the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova**

 **Delivered by H.E. Mrs. Tatiana Molcean,**

**Ambassador, Permanent Representative**

 (*Geneva, 22 January 2021)*

Mr. Vicepresident,

Allow me to welcome the distinguished Austrian delegation to the UPR Working Group and commend Austria for its remarkable record in the field of promotion and protection of human rights.

We commend Austria’s efforts to ensure gender equality in all spheres of society, particularly the quota introduced in 2018 to improve representation of women in leadership positions on the labour market. Likewise, we welcome the amendments to the Protection against Violence Act, particularly with a view to improving victims’ protection as well as training and awareness-raising measures for law-enforcement officers.

In a constructive spirit, the Republic of Moldova recommends the following:

1. To ensure a comprehensive mandate of the Austrian Ombudsman Board, particularly with regard to children’s rights;

2. To take further measures to harmonize protection standards for victims of child trafficking throughout the country.

Finally, I wish the Austrian delegation a successful UPR cycle.

I thank you, Mr. Vicepresident.