**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE**

**REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA**

**to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

**Check against delivery**

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

**- Austria -**

**Statement delivered by**

**H.E. Ms. Teuta Agai-Demjaha,**

 **Permanent Representative of North Macedonia**

*Geneva, January 22, 2021*

North Macedonia welcomes the distinguished delegation of Austria.

We commend Austria for its dedication to advancing human rights, having ratified almost all the United Nations core human rights instruments.

We commend the human-rights based approach in the implementation of Austria’s development cooperation program and the Agenda 2030, and we call for improved inclusion of vulnerable groups, in particular persons with disabilities.

While we recognize the adoption of an ambitious legal framework on gender equality, we call for improvement of women’s rights across the spectrum. In particular we encourage further promotion of gender equality in the labour market, through better integration of women from minorities and vulnerable groups and by decreasing the gender pay gap.

North Macedonia would like to make the following recommendation to Austria:

- To undertake further policy, legal and financial measures for combating all forms of violence against women, including femicides and cases of domestic violence.

We wish Austria a successful UPR cycle.

I thank you Madam President.