**Statement of the Kingdom of Bahrain**

**The 37th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**

**Austria**

**Geneva, 22th January 2021**

Madam President,

The Kingdom of Bahrain welcomes the delegation of Austria, and thanks them for their comprehensive presentation.

We **welcome** Austria’s efforts in implementing recommendations that were supported during the 2nd UPR cycle, in terms of addressing hate speech and racism in the media, and taking measures to combat terrorism and violent extremism, yet we remain concerned by reports of excessive use of force by the police, and the rising of religious intolerance and islamophobia.

**In this regard, we offer the following recommendations:**

1. To take further action against the use of force by the police,
2. To work towards establishing and adopting a national strategy aimed at combating all forms of racisms and xenophobia.
3. To take further measures to promote tolerance and respect for cultural diversity in order to eradicate existing prejudices and stereotypes against migrants and foreigners.

The Kingdom of Bahrain wishes Austria a successful review.

Thank you, Madam President