**38th Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Latvia**

11 May 2021

**Statement by Austria**

Thank you,

Austria welcomes the delegation of Latvia to the UPR and thanks for the submission of its national report.

Austria welcomes the adoption of the law to grant automatic citizenship to children of “non-citizens” as of 1st January 2020. Austria considers this measure significant progress towards eliminating child statelessness, implementing the right of each child to a nationality at birth and toward fully including all children in Latvian society. How will Latvia further ensure that the lack of citizenship of permanent residents does not hinder their equal right to vote and to work in the civil service?

Despite many positive steps however, human rights challenges remain, in particular high levels of violence against women and domestic violence.

Austria therefore recommends:

1. A swift ratification of the Istanbul Convention;
2. The inclusion of domestic violence and marital rape as specific crimes in the Criminal Code;
3. The continuation of efforts to further improve prison conditions.

I thank you.