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

**Review of Singapore**

12 May 2021

**Statement by Austria**

Thank you,

Austria welcomes the delegation of Singapore to the UPR and thanks them for their report and presentation today.

We commend the government’s generally successful policies in the fields of economic development, health care, education and social security. We also welcome recent steps aimed at strengthening the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.

However, we note that Singapore has not yet ratified several key international human rights instruments despite the previous acceptance of UPR recommendations in this regard. We are concerned about the continued use of the death penalty and corporal punishment as well as about severe and seemingly arbitrary restrictions on the exercise of the rights to freedom of opinion and expression and freedom of assembly.

Austria offers the following recommendations:

1. Repeal the mandatory use of the death penalty with a view to its abolishment
2. Ratify CAT and abolish the use of corporal punishment like caning;
3. Ratify the ICCPR, ICESCR and accede to the Rome Statute of the ICC;
4. Repeal Section 377A of the Penal Code criminalizing homosexual acts even if undertaken in private spaces and enact legislation to protect the rights of LGBTI persons;

I thank you.