**39th session of the Universal Periodic Review
Review of Greece**

1 November 2021

**Statement by Austria**

Thank you,

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

Austria recognizes the efforts undertaken by the government of Greece since its last UPR, such as the ratification of the Istanbul Convention or the new law on gender equality and combating gender-based violence.

We offer the following recommendations:

*1. To ensure adequate reception and living conditions for asylum seekers in line with the requirements of the European Convention on Human Rights and of European Union law, and to continue to conduct investigations into allegations of illegal push-backs of refugees.*

*2. To continue efforts to improve conditions of detention and alleviate the overcrowding of penitentiary institutions, including through the application of non-custodial measures.*

*3. To ensure that all human rights defenders, journalists and humanitarian workers are allowed to exercise their work, in a safe and enabling environment.*

I thank you.