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

2 November 2021

**Statement by Austria**

Austria welcomes the delegation of Hungary and recognizes the efforts undertaken by Hungary since its last UPR, for example in fighting poverty and social exclusion faced by Roma.

However, Austria is concerned about developments in the areas of academic freedom, media pluralism, rights of LGBTIQ persons and judicial independence.

Austria offers the following recommendations:

*1. Restore media pluralism and independence and ensure freedom of expression by refraining from obstruction and intimidation of independent media outlets and journalists.*

*2.* *Revoke the new legislation purporting to protect children, which stigmatizes and discriminates against persons based on their sexual orientation and gender identity and establishes inadmissible links between homosexuality and pedophilia.*

*3. Take action to protect judicial independence by bringing the selection and appointment procedures of court presidents in line with international standards.*

*4. Step up efforts to address discrimination and social exclusion faced by Roma with particular emphasis on integrated schooling.*

I thank you.