**39th session of the Universal Periodic Review
Review of Trinidad & Tobago**

9 November 2021

**Statement by Austria**

Thank you,

Austria would like to commend Trinidad and Tobago for its significant advances in the promotion and protection of human rights and for the achievements made regarding child rights, especially with the historic abolition of child marriage.

We recognize the huge challenges caused by the influx of refugees and migrants to Trinidad and Tobago, in particular from Venezuela, and welcome the measures taken by the authorities to protect their human rights. It is however crucial for the administration to be able to rely on a sound legal framework at the national level in strict compliance with international law and standards for the effective implementation of asylum and migration policies.

Prison overcrowding and detention conditions remain another important area which would require priority attention by the authorities[, particularly pre-trial detention, since people are sometimes detained over several years while awaiting trial or sentencing].

We welcome the fact that the authorities of Trinidad and Tobago continue to strictly apply the de-facto moratorium on the death penalty.

Austria therefore offers the following recommendations:

1. *Ensure that prison conditions meet international human rights standards, including by starting a reform of the pre-trial detention system to reduce the number of persons in pre-trial detention.*
2. *Urgently ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT).*
3. *Promote a public debate with a view to abolishing the death penalty at all times and to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant in Civil and Political Rights.*
4. *Develop an effective legal framework at the national level in compliance with international norms and standards to ensure protection and safeguards for asylum seekers, including by providing adequate reception conditions.*

I thank you.