**40th session of the Universal Periodic Review
Review of Venezuela**

25 January 2021

**Statement by Austria**

Thank you,

Austria welcomes the delegation of Venezuela to the UPR and thanks them for their report. Austria is deeply concerned about the reports of widespread and systematic human rights violations, as well as the gradual breakdown of democratic institutions and the rule of law.

We therefore offer the following recommendations:

1. *Immediately and unconditionally release all political prisoners and conduct thorough and credible reforms of the police and judiciary, and in particular of Special Action Forces (FAES).*
2. *Undertake independent, thorough and prompt investigations into all cases of human rights violations, particularly extrajudicial killings, attacks against journalists and human rights defenders, and bring perpetrators to justice.*
3. *Ensure media freedom by bringing national legislation in line with Venezuela’s Constitution and international standards and reinstate all media outlets that have unwarrantedly been closed.*
4. *Cooperate with OHCHR in order to establish a fully-fledged country office in Venezuela.*

I thank you.