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

24 January 2021

**Statement by Austria**

Thank you,

Austria welcomes the delegation of Syria to the UPR and thanks them for their report. Austria is deeply concerned about the human rights and humanitarian situation in Syria, particularly about the fate of tens of thousands of victims subjected to arbitrary detention or enforced disappearances.

Austria therefore offers the following recommendations:

1. *Cease all forms of incommunicado detention and take all feasible measures, in line with Security Council resolution 2474 (2019), to search for and reveal the fates of those who were detained and/or disappeared;*
2. *Ratify OPCAT and provide immediate and unhindered access for independent international monitoring mechanisms to all detention facilities directly or indirectly controlled by the government;*
3. *Ensure that the property rights of refugees and IDPs seeking to return are protected and revise all laws and decrees that act as obstacles to return in violation of international law;*
4. *Allow unimpeded humanitarian access to all areas controlled by the government, including areas that were previously held by anti-government groups.*
5. *Fully cooperate with OHCHR and its Syria office.*

I thank you.