**41st Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Brazil**

14 November 2022

**Statement by Austria**

Austria welcomes H.E. Christine Britto and the delegation of Brazil and expresses its appreciation for the presentation of the national report as well as for Brazil’s constructive participation in the UPR process and active engagement with Special Procedures as well as in the Human Rights Dialogues with the EU.

Austria commends Brazil for the comprehensive humanitarian response offered to refugees and migrants arriving from Venezuela through its shelter and relocation program “Operation Welcome” as well as the granting of humanitarian visa and protection to people fleeing Ukraine, Afghanistan, Syria and Haiti. Austria also welcomes Brazil’s joining of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance in 2021 and of the International Religious Freedom or Belief Alliance in 2020.

Despite the positive development of the establishment of a National Plan against Femicide, we note with concern that cases of violence against women, including political violence, have increased in recent years which negatively affects women’s participation. Austria also remains concerned by detention conditions in many Brazilian prisons, including overcrowding and high levels of violence.

We are particularly worried by a rise in cases of violence, persecution and intimidation, online and offline, against human rights defenders, environmental activists, journalists and members of indigenous communities, often linked to disputes over land, resources or illegal economic activities, and call on the Brazilian authorities to step up their efforts to protect the victims, hold the perpetrators accountable and ensure a safe and enabling environment for civil society.

Therefore, we would like to make the following recommendations:

* increase meaningful civil society participation in public affairs, especially for the inclusion of indigenous people and women into decision-making processes;
* strengthen indigenous and environmental agencies through adequate resource allocations and protection from interferences;
* ensure respect for and protection of human rights for all detainees, including by guaranteeing detention conditions in compliance with domestic and international law and standards;
* introduce a comprehensive legal framework on gender-based violence and reduce systemic obstacles to effective investigation and prosecution of femicides.

Thank you.