**42nd Session of the WG Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Sri Lanka**

1 February 2023

**Statement by Austria**

Austria welcomes the delegation of Sri Lanka and thanks them for their presentation.

Sri Lanka has seen an unprecedented economic crisis, which has led to massive disruptions and severely impacted the human rights situation in the country. At the same time, these challenges and disruptions could also provide the country with an opportunity for a comprehensive dialogue on how to transform Sri Lanka into an inclusive, pluralistic and fully democratic state based on the rule of law, non-discrimination and respect for human rights.

Austria offers the following recommendations:

* To pursue an effective transitional justice process to hold perpetrators of gross human rights violations and abuses accountable and to uphold victims’ rights to truth, justice and reparations.
* To review its counter-terrorism legislation, in particular the Prevention of Terrorism Act, to bring it in line with international human rights standards.
* To ensure a climate in which all citizens are able to freely express their opinions and beliefs, without fear of reprisal or retribution.
* To ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

I thank you.