**43rd Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group**

**Review of Israel**

9 May 2023

**Statement by Austria**

Austria welcomes the delegation of Israel to the UPR and thanks them for the presentation of their National Report.

Recalling Austria's unequivocal opposition to the death penalty, we have noted with deep concern the recent preliminary vote in the Knesset to lift the de facto moratorium on the use of the death penalty in Israel. **We recommend that Israel maintain the status quo of a full moratorium on the use of the death penalty, as practiced in recent decades, and consider in the long term a de jure abolition of capital punishment.**

While we appreciate the measures outlined by Israel in its National Report to promote and protect the human rights of persons belonging to minorities, many challenges remain. **We therefore** **recommend that Israel further strengthen its efforts to combat discrimination against persons belonging to the Arab, Bedouin, Christian, Circassian and Druze communities, as well as persons belonging to other religious and ethnic minorities.**

We commend Israel's anti-discrimination efforts as outlined in the National Report, including for the protection of the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons, and **recommend that Israel continue to protect the rights of its citizens to live freely regardless of their gender and sexual orientation, and actively protect them from violence and discrimination.**

I thank you.