**43rd Session of the UPR Working Group**

**Review of Montenegro**

8 May 2023

**Statement by Austria**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Austria welcomes the delegation of Montenegro and thanks for their presentation.

We welcome Montenegro’s commitment to the UPR process and the progress made to address previous recommendations. However, we remain concerned by the limited progress in some areas.

Austria therefore would like to offer the following recommendations:

* Strengthen efforts to prevent and combat all forms of discrimination and violence against women and children, including inter alia through enforceable entry bans, safe houses;
* Improve the protection of journalists against violence and hate speech, inter alia by condemning such attacks when they occur, and taking further steps to end impunity for past attacks.
* Continue the judicial reform process, including by filling all vacancies and by eliminating political influence on the judiciary;
* Continue to develop comprehensive strategies to eliminate all forms of discrimination against members of ethnic minorities, in particular women and children, inter alia by measures aimed at facilitating their economic, social and educational inclusion.

Thank you.