**29th session of the Universal Periodic review**

**Review of Romania**

16 January 2018

**Statement by Austria**

Austria warmly welcomes the delegation of Romania to the UPR and thanks them for their presentation.

We commend Romania for the progress achieved in the field of human rights since its last review, inter alia through the ratification of the Istanbul Convention in 2016.

However, challenges still remain. In particular, the housing situation of many Roma remains dire, characterized by basic amenities, segregation and forced evictions as well as the lack of effective legal remedies

We also remain concerned about the situation of many persons with disabilities still suffering from inadequate living conditions, social marginalization and ill-treatment in institutions.

Austria offers the following recommendations:

* Strengthen its efforts to eliminate discrimination against Roma and to ensure in particular their access to education, social housing, healthcare and employment without discrimination;
* Take appropriate measures to ensure the unhindered participation of persons with disabilities in the education system and in the labour market;
* Ensure that all allegations of ill-treatment committed by law enforcement officers are promptly and effectively investigated.
* Ensure that acts of discrimination and violence against LGBT persons and persons belonging to other vulnerable groups are properly investigated and perpetrators held accountable;

I thank you.