**29th Session of the UPR Working Group**

**Review of Montenegro**

22 January 2018

**Statement by Austria**

We warmly welcome the delegation of Montenegro to the UPR and thank them for their presentation.

Austria commends the numerous efforts undertaken since the last review, inter alia the ratification of international human rights instruments and the recent amendments to the national anti-discrimination law.

We also commend Montenegro for its efforts to strengthen and promote rule of law, including the strategy of judiciary reform 2014-2018 aiming to enhance judicial independence.

Although progress has been made to address discrimination, in particular against the Roma community, Roma remain the most vulnerable and discriminated community in various areas of life in Montenegro, with Roma women being subject to double discrimination. We also remain concerned about reported acts of physical violence against journalists and media workers in the country.

Austria commends the efforts to minimize the risk of statelessness of displaced persons. We would be interested to know more about the plans to introduce a separate procedure for determining statelessness?

Austria offers the following recommendations:

* Continue to raise awareness on the needs of the Roma population, in particular women and children, and establish adequate systems that provide for their economic, social and educational inclusion;
* Continue the judicial reform process, including by further efforts to eliminate political influence on the judiciary;
* Ensure the safety of journalists and media workers against violence by condemning such attacks when they occur and taking further steps to end impunity for past attacks;
* Recognize the important role of media self-regulation for journalists as the most effective tool to raise professional and ethical standards of the media without undue interference;

I thank you.