**30th session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Bangladesh**

14 May 2018

**Statement by Austria**

Austria welcomes the delegation of Bangladesh to the UPR and thanks them for their report and presentation today.

We commend Bangladesh for its efforts in implementing its human rights obligations and commitments over the past years such as the Children Act 2013 and the considerable progress achieved in the field of poverty reduction. [Austria further commends Bangladesh for its efforts in sheltering the Rohingya people displaced from Myanmar.]

However, Austria continues to be worried about reports on violent attacks against religious minorities, journalists and human rights defenders. We are also troubled that the age for criminal responsibility is still 9 years, despite many recommendations during the previous UPR cycle.

Austria offers the following recommendations:

* Publicly commit to ensuring that journalists, bloggers, human rights defenders and civil society organizations are able to carry out their activities without fear of surveillance, intimidation, harassment, arrest, prosecution or retribution
* Ensure the effective investigation and sanctioning of all cases of violence against religious minorities
* Raise the minimum age for criminal responsibility for juvenile offenders in line with recommendations by the CRC;
* Introduce a moratorium as a first step towards final abolition of the death penalty

I thank you.