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

**Review of Cuba**

16 May 2018

**Statement by Austria**

We warmly welcome H.E. … and the delegation of Cuba and thank them for the presentation and the national report.

Austria welcomes the advancement made by the Government of the Republic of Cuba in the implementation of recommendations from the last review 2013.

We especially acknowledge that Cuba accepted for the first time in 10 years high-profile visits of UN special procedures *[namely the UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons and the UN Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity]* in 2017. We also welcome more openness towards political dialogue on human rights issues on a bilateral, regional and multilateral level.

However, *when it comes to inclusive dialogue within the Cuban society, restrictions against groups and individuals who openly pronounce dissenting opinions or promote political reform appear to become more frequent.* Austria is *also* concerned about continuous reports on repressive measures, intimidation and short and recurrent arbitrary detention of journalists, human rights defenders and members of the civil society. *Austria is further worried that the principles of fair trial are often not fully respected during criminial proceedings including cases of pretrial detention.*

Austria offers the following recommendations:

* Ratify ICCPR and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court
* Bring the framework on freedom of association and assembly in line with international law and standards
* Take effective measures to guarantee that Internet access corresponds to international regulations that protect the right to seek, receive, and disseminate information and ideas
* Promote human rights education on all levels especially within law enforcement