**31st Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of CHINA**

6 November 2018

**Statement by Austria**

We welcome His Excellency and the delegation of China and thank them for their report and presentation today.

The Chinese Constitution guarantees the rights and freedoms of ethnic minorities in all regions of the PR of China. We are concerned about the observations by various UN bodies with regard to the human rights situation in ethnic minority areas of China including the Autonomous Regions of Tibet, Xinjiang and Inner Mongolia in particular the mass internment of Uighurs without any formal judicial procedure or conviction.

China’s Constitution also ensures the rights to freedom of religion or belief and to freedom of opinion and expression. We are therefore worried about measures and policies interfering with or undermining these rights.

Regarding the removal of organs, we would like to know how the Chinese authorities ensure that this is only performed with the free, informed and specific consent of the donor without exception. Austria would be grateful to receive information on the implementation of a zero tolerance policy on harvesting organs in prisons and detention facilities.

We offer as recommendations:

* Review China’s national and regional security legislation in order to bring it in conformity with international human rights law and standards and ensure that provisions are clearly and strictly defined;
* Take the necessary measures to allow all citizens to enjoy the free exercise of religion or belief, as provided for in Article 36 of China’s constitution and to ensure that ethnic minorities can freely practise their religion and exercise their culture;
* Take additional measures to ensure that the right to freedom of expression is not unduly restricted;
* Grant the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and special procedures access to all regions of China;

I thank you.