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

**Review of NIGERIA**

6 November 2018

**Statement by Austria**

We welcome H.E. and the delegation of Nigeria and thank them for the presentation and the national report.

Austria commends the efforts undertaken by Nigeria since the last review, including the adoption of national legislation, in particular a law prohibiting FGM. In this regard, we encourage Nigeria to implement the law in a comprehensive manner.

Despite the progress made, numerous challenges remain that have to be effectively addressed. For instance, Austria regrets that, the de-facto moratorium on the death penalty was once again contravened in Nigeria, this time in Edo State in December 2016.

Furthermore, Austria has noticed with concern the large number of victims of human trafficking coming from Nigeria. In this regard, we welcome the enactment of the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act 2015, which seeks to strengthen Nigeria’s institutional framework to combat trafficking in human beings.

Austria offers the following recommendations to the Government of Nigeria:

* Take concrete steps to remove all provisions that criminalize petty offences from both Federal and State laws;
* Amend and review all legislation and policies, with a view to de-criminalizing same-sex relations;
* Ensure that the moratorium on the death penalty is upheld on the federal and states level with a view to abolishing the death penalty;
* Continue to raise awareness about trafficking in human beings to prevent people from being trafficked and ensure that support is provided for those who have become victim to this heinous crime;

I thank you.