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

**Review of MEXICO**

7 November 2018

**Statement by Austria**

We welcome H.E. Ambassador Miguel Ruíz Cabañas and the delegation of Mexico to the 3rd round of the UPR and thank them for their report and presentation today.

Austria welcomes the steps Mexico has taken to strengthen the protection of human rights, including the passing of the General Law on Torture and the General Law on Enforced Disappearances in 2017.

However, Austria is deeply concerned about the increase in numbers of cases of violence, threats and killings of journalists and human rights defenders. In addition, we express our deep concern about the alarmingly high levels of impunity in Mexico.

Austria would therefore like to present the following recommendations to Mexico:

* Ensure the effective functioning of the Federal Protection Mechanism for journalists and human rights defenders, in particular through the allocation of sufficient human, financial and technical resources;
* Guarantee the effective implementation and application of existing legislation aiming to protect journalists and human rights defenders on the federal, states and municipal level;
* Take all necessary actions and steps to create an autonomous and fully independent federal Attorney General’s Office and ensure its effective functioning in order to promptly, impartially and thoroughly investigate all allegations of crimes;
* Evaluate and create the necessary regulations to eliminate legal and procedural uncertainties in the application of the gender violence alert mechanism;

I thank you.