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

**Review of MALAYSIA**

8 November 2018

**Statement by Austria**

We welcome H.E. and the delegation of Malaysia to the 3rd round of the UPR and thank them for their report and presentation today.

Austria commends the government of Malaysia for its envisaged policies to better promote and protect human rights, including its pledges to ratify the remaining core international human rights treaties and to abolish the death penalty by the end of the year. We encourage the government to implement these pledges in a timely manner.

Austria further acknowledges past efforts made by Malaysia, as a multiethnic, multicultural and multi-religious country, to foster a climate of moderation, tolerance as well as peaceful living together of persons with different ethnic or religious backgrounds, and we encourage the current government to continue its efforts in this regard.

Despite these efforts numerous challenges remain that have to be effectively addressed. For instance, Austria remains concerned that - contrary to pledges by the government - laws such as the Sedition Act which unduly restrict fundamental freedoms are still in place.

Austria offers the following recommendations:

* Take further steps to ensure a free, independent, pluralistic and diverse media landscape, including by reducing political influence on media outlets;
* Take necessary measures to protect LGBTI persons, in law and in practice, against any form of violence, harassment or discrimination and ensure the full enjoyment of all their fundamental human rights and freedoms;
* Introduce effective measures to prevent child marriage and ensure their implementation in all states of Malaysia ;
* Ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC and take steps to resolve the conflicts of competence between civil and Sharia courts, with a view to fully protect human rights, as previously recommended;

I thank you.