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

**Review of MALTA**

14 November 2018

**Statement by Austria**

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

Austria welcomes the steps Malta has taken to strengthen the protection of human rights and particularly commends the government of Malta for the ratification of the Istanbul Convention and the progress made in the protection and promotion of the rights of LGBTI people.

Austria is deeply concerned about the killing of the journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia and welcomes the arrest and bringing of charges against three suspects. Austria would like to ask the government of Malta which steps have been taken to properly ensure the safety of journalists and their protection from threats, intimidation and violence.

Austria would like to offer the following recommendations:

* Ensure accountability through the conduct of independent, impartial, prompt, thorough, effective, credible and transparent investigations into all cases of violence, threats and attacks against journalists and media workers;
* Continue efforts to put in place a system of comprehensive sexuality education;
* Ratify the 1954 and 1961 Conventions on Statelessness;
* Ratify the Optional Protocol to CEDAW;
* Withdraw the reservation to Art 29 (a) (i) and (iii) of CRPD and take the necessary steps to ensure that persons with disabilities can fully exercise their right to vote.

I thank you.