**23 January 2019**

**32nd Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Yemen**

**Statement by AUSTRIA**

Austria welcomes H.E. Dr. Askar and the delegation of Yemen to the UPR and thanks them for their national report and presentation.

We welcome recent steps towards a credible political process, for the sake of a population that has suffered for too long. Security Council Resolution 2451 marks decisive progress – we hope that all sides remain fully committed to its implementation that the momentum will be kept with the continuation of political talks.

Austria remains extremely concerned about the humanitarian situation in Yemen and the targeting of civilians and civilian infrastructure by all sides to the conflict and its devastating consequences on Yemeni society. In an effort to reduce the burden on the Yemenis, the Government should pay public sector salaries in all areas in Yemen, reopen Sana’a Airport and lift import restrictions.

Furthermore, Austria attaches utmost importance on improving the overall situation of women and girls in Yemen, not only in the context of the current conflict, but also as regards their role in Yemeni society.

Austria would like to offer the following recommendations:

* Cooperate with the UN Group of Eminent Experts and international human rights investigators;
* Impartially and transparently investigate alleged violations of international humanitarian and human rights law by all parties to the conflict, make public the findings and ensure prosecution of those implicated in war crimes;
* Immediately close all informal detention facilities and release all persons arbitrarily detained, publish official lists of all individuals currently in detention centres and those who have died in detention. Sign OPCAT and CED;
* Abolish male guardianship and control over women and raise the minimum age for marriages to 18 by amending the Personal Status Law accordingly; Include effective legal protection for women from domestic and sexual violence in the Penal code.