**32nd Session of the UPR Working Group**

**Review of Eritrea**

28 January 2019

**Statement by Austria**

We welcome the delegation of Eritrea to the UPR and thank them for their presentation and national report.

The Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship between Eritrea and Ethiopia has brought a new dynamic of peace, security and development in the Horn of Africa. We hope that it will also lead to an improvement of the human rights situation in Eritrea.

We also welcome Eritrea’s accession to CAT as well as to the UNTOC and its Protocol on Trafficking in Persons in September 2014. We remain concerned, however, about reports of continued use of torture as part of repression of the civilian population.

We support the Government’s efforts to eliminate FGM. However, we remain concerned about its continued prevalence and encourage the Government to strengthen its efforts to effectively eliminate the practice.

Austria offers the following recommendations:

* End the practice of indefinite compulsory national service and ensure compliance of the conditions of national service with the ILO Convention on the Abolition of Forced Labour.
* Put an end to the practice of arbitrary arrest and detention, release or bring before a court all persons detained without a charge and comply with international standards in the treatment of detainees.
* Grant access to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea.
* Effectively criminalize all forms of violence against women, including marital rape.
* Ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC.

I thank you.