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

**Review of Cambodia**

30 January 2019

**Statement by Austria**

Austria welcomes the delegation of Cambodia and thanks them for their report and presentation today.

Austria is seriously concerned about the deteriorating situation with regard to the rule of law in the country and therefore **recommends** *to revise or repeal [a number of] recent legal acts [that are] potentially subject to restrictive and arbitrary interpretation in order to bring them in conformity with international human rights law and standards, including, among others: the Law on Political Parties and the Election laws, the Law on Associations and Non-governmental Organizations and the Inter-Ministerial Proclamation of May 2018 on social media;*

We also remain concerned about the impartiality of the Cambodian judiciary and therefore **recommend** [*to take measures] to strengthen the independence and functioning of the judiciary, in particular by repealing or significantly amending the Law on the Organization of the Courts, the Law on the Statute of Judges and Prosecutors and the Law on the Organization and the Functioning of the Supreme Council of the Magistracy; and to take all necessary steps towards a substantive reduction of the time spent by persons in pre-trial detention;*

Recognizing Cambodia’s efforts to resolve outstanding claims in the land sector, we **recommend** *to ensure that all pending land disputes, evictions and relocations are settled in a fair, transparent, negotiated and adequately compensated manner in accordance with the legislative framework.*

Finally, we **recommend** to ensure that *discrimination and violence against women are clearly defined by law and effective remedies are provided to all victims of gender-based discrimination and violence.*

I thank you