**6 May 2019**

**33rd Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Albania**

**Statement by AUSTRIA**

We welcome the delegation of Albania and thank them for their national report and presentation.

Austria commends the numerous efforts undertaken since the last review, including the ratification of international instruments and the adoption of various laws and actions plans.

In order to consolidate these positive steps, more efforts are needed to implement existing commitments and strengthen institutional mechanisms. Progress remains to be made in the area of property rights, the eradication of corruption and the social integration of minorities. We are concerned about reports of the persistence of domestic violence against women and children.

Austria therefore offers the following recommendations:

* Improve institutional mechanisms for the protection of victims of domestic violence and fully implement, without further delay, the provisions of the national action plan on gender equality and domestic violence.
* Further consolidate the entrenchment of property rights, notably by advancing the revision of property deeds, implementation of the compensation scheme, and advancing the digitalizing and mapping of property.
* Strengthen efforts to proactively fight corruption in public administration, inter alia, by improving the efficiency and transparency of public services delivery, training civil servants, establishing more transparent recruitment procedures and strengthening the administration’s capacity to undertake merit-based recruitment.