**UPR Working Group – Review of Ethiopia**

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

Austria commends Ethiopia for [many positive recent developments, including] the release of political prisoners, among them journalists and key opposition leaders and the lifting of restrictions imposed by the state of emergency. The reopening of television stations is an important step for ensuring media freedom and freedom of expression. Austria further welcomes that women received half of the positions in the Cabinet and the appointment of many others to high offices.

We welcome the initiative to revise legal frameworks such as the Anti-Terrorism Proclamation, the Freedom of Information and Mass Media Proclamation and the Charities and Societies Proclamation in view to comply with Ethiopia’s human rights obligations. Austria remains concerned about ongoing ethnically-based tensions and the forced displacements and returns of IDPs.

**We recommend:**

* Ensure the independence of the judicial system and continue your efforts towards accountability for past atrocities, incl. torture and extrajudicial killings.
* Further promote genuine participation of civil society and NGOs in public affairs and decision-making, including by removing all legal obstacles and practices thereto.
* Ratify OPCAT and consistently apply Art 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations in all cases.
* Extend standing invitations to UN human rights mechanisms.
* Mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda’s SDGs, in close cooperation and involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities as set out in the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities’ initial report of Ethiopia disability rights.