**34th Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of EL SALVADOR**

4 November 2019

**Statement by Austria**

Austria welcomes H.E. Ms. Ana Geraldina Beneke Castaneda and the delegation of El Salvador and thanks them for their report and presentation today.

Austria commends the progress made since the country’s last review, including legislative steps to enhance the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples and the rights of the child. Austria also welcomes the suspension of the 1993 Amnesty Law in 2016.

We very much appreciate the ratification of the Rome Statute of the ICC and the ongoing process of considering the ratification of CED, OP CEDAW and OP CAT.

However, Austria is concerned about the high levels of crimes committed against women and girls as well as members of the LGBTI community.

Austria therefore offers the following recommendations:

* Ensure protection of women’s rights and strengthen the fight against gender-based violence;
* Ensure effective protection of all human rights defenders, including LGBTI defenders and women human rights defenders, and ensure that crimes against them are promptly, thoroughly and impartially investigated;
* Adopt a national legal and policy framework to prevent and respond to internal displacement in accordance with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement;
* Fully take into account the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child with a view to the effective implementation of the Convention.

I thank you.