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

**Review of Italy**

4 November 2019

**Statement by Austria**

Austria warmly welcomes the delegation of Italy and thanks for the submission and presentation of their national report.

We acknowledge the importance Italy traditionally attaches to the protection of minorities and the model character of the status of the German and Ladin communities based on the autonomy of South Tyrol. Nevertheless, we are looking forward to seeing this autonomy further developed.

Persons belonging to other minority groups, however, are not able to fully enjoy their rights – for example the Roma and Sinti. We share the concern of many stakeholders regarding an increased climate of hostility against Roma and Sinti communities and several violent attacks against them.

While welcoming new legislation on gender-based violence and the national action plan to combat violence against women (2017–2020), several treaty bodies remain concerned about the high prevalence of gender-based violence against women and girls, and the underreporting and low prosecution and conviction rates for such crimes.

Also, despite several measures taken to reform the criminal justice system and to improve detention conditions, the rate of prison overcrowding has risen further in the last year.

We recommend:

* in light of the expert recommendations of the Vienna Conference on anti-Gypsyism, to further the understanding that anti-Gypsyism is a driver for social exclusion for Roma and Sinti and to establish and strengthen monitoring structures, in order to effectively fight any form of anti-Gypsyism;
* to pursue efforts to reform the criminal justice system, including by improving conditions of detention, reducing the use of pre-trial detention and extending the use of alternative measures to detention;
* to further intensify efforts aimed at combatting violence against women;

I thank you.