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**35th Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Spain**

**Statement by Austria**

22 January 2020

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

Austria welcomes the involvement of civil society and recommends to the Government to continue its cooperation with civil society organizations in the follow-up to this review.

Austria commends Spain for its strong commitment to promote gender equality and to combat gender-based violence, as demonstrated, *inter alia*, through the adoption of a National Covenant on Combating Gender-based Violence and Spain’s strong efforts to integrate women into public, political and economic life. Austria hopes that Spain will pursue these priorities with determination.

Austria welcomes the amendments made to the regime of *incommunicado d*etention in 2015 but notes that the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment recommended introducing further safeguards proposed in the framework of Spain’s last review and to exclude the possibility of applying this regime to adolescents.

While commending Spain for its strong commitment to promote gender equality and amendments made to the regime of *incommunicado d*etention, [and some improvements made in the field of immigration management, several treaty bodies and the UNHCR continue to raise concern about the inadequate living conditions of migrants and asylum seekers [in the reception centers in Ceuta and Melilla.

We recommend:

1. Take further measures to improve conditions of stay for asylum seekers, in particular children, in reception centers in Ceuta and Melilla and review the duration of proceedings as well as deportation practices.
2. Introduce further safeguards in line with international human rights law to the *incommunicado* detention regime and ensure that this regime will not be applied to adolescents.
3. Ensure that victims of gender-based violence have access to immediate means of redress and protection.
4. Systematically consult with civil society, including women’s organizations and feminist groups, on gender-related issues during the law making process.

I thank you.