**35th Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Kyrgyzstan**

**Statement by AUSTRIA**

Austria welcomes the delegation of Kyrgyzstan to the UPR and thanks for the presentation of the national report.

Austria commends the Kyrgyz republic for the many positive developments since the last review including the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

We welcome that the repressive provisions regarding “foreign agents”, which would have decisively restricted the work of civil society organizations, and also the so called “anti-gay propaganda bill” were both eventually not passed by Parliament. We hope that the recent law draft bill tabled for discussion in Parliament entitled “Amendments to the law on NGOs” will not change this.

Despite these positive developments, we remain concerned about reports of lawsuits and cyber-attacks against journalists that could endanger the very existence of independent media in Kyrgyzstan.

Austria offers the following recommendations:

* Ensure that relevant legislation guarantees the exercise of the rights to freedom of expression and association for all individuals and in particular, journalists;
* ensure that investigations into allegations of torture and other ill-treatment are carried out by an independent body;
* ensure that the legislation concerning domestic violence against women is implemented;
* ratify of the Rome statute of the International Criminal Court;