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

**Statement by Austria**

29 January 2020

Austria welcomes the delegation of Kuwait to the UPR and thanks them for their national report.

We welcome efforts undertaken by the Kuwaiti authorities in following up on recommendations made in previous UPRs, especially when it comes finding solutions to the difficult legal and social situation for tens of thousands of long-time residents of Kuwait who are stateless.

We hope that a draft law recently prepared by Parliament will eventually bring about the removal of serious restrictions and hurdles these individuals still face.

We laud the passing of the 2015 Domestic Workers Act, but are concerned about reports of cases of violence and abuse against domestic workers. Opinion surveys further seem to indicate that a huge number of both employers and domestic workers are not aware of the content of the Domestic Workers Act. Information campaigns, done in cooperation with civil society, could help in increasing compliance with the law.

We also remain concerned about the imposition and application of the death penalty and encourage the enacting of a moratorium on executions.

We recommend:

1. Determine and publish clear, objectively verifiable criteria for naturalization and provide by law judicial remedies so that they can challenge decisions made by executive and administrative authorities affecting their legal status;
2. Fully implement the Domestic Workers Act and investigate and prosecute all abuses and violence against domestic workers;
3. Review the Personal Status Laws and the Nationality Act to eliminate all discrimination against women, including granting Kuwaiti women equal rights as men in passing on their nationality to their children;
4. Publicly recognize the legitimate role of women Human Rights Defenders’ and those working on women’s rights.

I thank you.