**United Nations Human Rights Council**

**36th Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Honduras**

**Geneva, 2 – 13 November 2020**

**Statement by AUSTRIA**

Austria warmly welcomes H.E. ... and the delegation of Honduras to the UPR and thanks for the submission and presentation of the national report.

Austria commends Honduras’ efforts undertaken since the last review and welcomes the opening of an Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the establishment of a Ministry of Human Rights.

Austria welcomes the ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which allowed for the entry into force of the Treaty.

Austria remains concerned about a number of issues highlighted in the first and second review, including the rising number of attacks against human rights activists, land defenders and journalists as well as the ongoing, widespread discrimination against indigenous persons, Afro-Hondurans and LGBTI persons.

Austria is also deeply worried about the invariable high levels of crimes committed against girls and women. The ratification of OP-CEDAW is essential in order to combat gender-based violence.

In terms of the fight against corruption and impunity, Austria expresses its disappointment that the mandate of the *Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras* was not extended.

Austria offers the following recommendations

* Strengthen the efforts to promptly, effectively and impartially investigate any allegations of violence or reprisals against journalists, human rights defenders, land defenders and LGBTI persons and ensure that perpetrators are held accountable
* Strengthen the efforts to end discrimination in law and practice against indigenous and Afro-Honduran people
* Ratify OP-CEDAW to ensure the protection of women’s and girls’ rights

I thank you.