

Geneva, 7 June

Statement: Initiative Human Rights Now and the FIDH

Thank you Mr President,

FIDH / The Initiative Human Rights Now welcomes the recommendations made by the Working Group, thankfully reflecting a set of key recommendations from the Initiative, which highlighted **structural human rights deficits**, such as the absence of a national human rights institution, the lack of equal opportunities between men and women, the fact that the **asylum and migrants legislation** is not in compliance with the international human rights law.

The lack of respect towards ethnic and national minorities' cultural rights, towards children's rights, towards LGBT rights and those of persons with disabilities. We welcome the significant number of recommendations accepted by the Government of Austria, in particular the recommendations regarding the establishment of a national human rights institution in accordance with Paris Principles, the fight against discrimination and hate speech, the definition of torture as a crime and the incorporation into national legislation of the rights of the child in accordance with the CRC. In the context of efforts to combat discriminations, we welcome Austria's commitment to harmonize anti-discrimination laws, in particular the Equal Treatment Act, which is not currently providing equal protection on all grounds of discrimination. However, we have concerns that the Government has refused to adopt a National Action Plan on combating racism and xenophobia and the recommendations made by Brazil and Slovakia to ensure that minors are not held in police custody or detention. We urge the government to reconsider decisions to reject such recommendations and to ensure that they are fully enforced.

Thank you Mr President.

