**Austrian contribution:**

**„the Draft Guiding Principles for the Search for Disappeared Persons“**

Thanking the OHCHR, Secretariat of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, for the *Draft Guiding Principles for the Search for Disappeared Persons (Reference CED/2018/SP/Dr/Gd)*, Austria considers the guiding principles as a useful tool for mechanisms, modalities, procedures and methods to support the implementation of existing legal obligations under the International Convention. The Guiding Principles correspond with the existing standards in Austria governing the search for disappeared persons.

With reference to principle 13 (“The search should be protected“) para 2 it should be noted, that any costs (e.g. for accommodation of the searching relatives or for loss of income of the searched person) – including the costs of searching relatives - are not borne by the Republic of Austria. For the relatives, however, no costs are incurred for measures taken within the framework of a search (use of search staff, technical aids, etc.).