

United Nations Human Rights Council

16th Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review

Review of BANGLADESH

Geneva, 29 April 2013

**Statement delivered by Ambassador Thomas Hajnoczi,
Permanent Representative of AUSTRIA**

Thank you, Mr. President,

Austria welcomes H.E. ... and the delegation of Bangladesh to their second UPR. We thank them for their report and the presentation today.

We commend Bangladesh for ratifying the Rome Statute in 2010 and the adoption of the 2011 National Women's Advancement Development Policy. However, we are concerned about the inadequate implementation of laws and policies for the protection of women from discrimination and violence. We are also concerned about violent attacks on religious minorities as well as on journalists in 2012. Austria welcomes the establishment of juvenile courts but remains concerned about the low age of 9 years for criminal responsibility and the continued application of the death penalty.

Austria offers the following recommendations:

- Ratify the 1951 refugee convention and its 1967 protocol, the 1954 and 1961 conventions on statelessness and OP-CAT;
- Withdraw your reservations to CEDAW and its optional protocol and fully implement national policies and laws on the protection of women;
- Ensure the effective investigation and sanctioning of all cases of violence against religious minorities;
- Raise the age of criminal responsibility for juvenile offenders to at least 12 years, in line with the CRC's general comment;
- Introduce a moratorium on all executions as a first step towards final abolition of the death penalty, in particular with regard to juvenile offenders;
- Ensure the effective investigation and sanctioning of attacks against journalists and take measure to create a safe and enabling working environment for journalists.