

**UN Human Rights Council
16th Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review
Review of GERMANY**

Geneva, 25 April 2013

Statement by AUSTRIA

Thank you, Mr. President.

Austria warmly welcomes H.E. and the delegation of Germany to the UPR and thanks them for their presentation.

We commend Germany for the open and active engagement with NGOs and civil society within the UPR process and for the positive steps towards the implementation of the recommendations accepted during the first review.

Austria welcomes the adoption of the General Equal Treatment Act (AGG) aiming at strengthening the legal and institutional framework against racism and discrimination which is important in view of reports of violent racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic attacks on members of minority groups.

Austria also welcomes the ratification of the CRPD and its Optional Protocol. Women with disabilities often suffer disproportionately from all forms of violence. Women subject to increased dependency living in specialized centers need access to effective protection and complaint mechanisms.

Austria offers the following recommendations to the German government:

- to raise awareness among potential victims of racism and discrimination on the existence and scope of the General Equal Treatment Act (AGG) and of the mechanisms for invoking their rights before the courts
- to ensure nationwide access to barrier-free protection and support facilities for women with disabilities affected by violence
- to provide effective protection and complaint mechanisms to persons with disabilities living in specialized centers;
- and to ratify the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)

which would be in line with the generally high standards in fighting corruption in Germany. Austria would like to ask for the reasons for not having ratified until now this core instrument against corruption.

I thank you.