

**United Nations Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
17th Session – Review of the ISRAEL**

(37)

Geneva, 29 January 2013

Statement by AUSTRIA

Mr. President,

Austria welcomes the delegation of Israel to the UPR and thanks them for their report, while expressing our disappointment over the delay in their cooperation with the UPR mechanism.

We note with appreciation that Israel has ratified most international human rights treaties and welcome in particular the ratification of the CRPD following the first round of the UPR. Could the Government explain its plans for further ratifications, especially with regard to the Convention on Enforced Disappearances, the Rome Statute of the ICC and the Additional Protocols I and II of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949?

At Israel's first UPR examination, Austria made recommendations regarding the discrimination of Arab Israeli citizens and the protection of human rights defenders. Both recommendations were not accepted. How has the Government's position evolved in this regard?

Austria offers the following recommendations to the Government of Israel:

- Ratify the Convention on Enforced Disappearances, OP-CAT, the Rome Statute of the ICC and the Additional Protocols I and II of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949;
- Make the declarations under articles 21 and 22 of the CAT and withdraw your reservation with regard to article 20 of CAT, as recommended by the Committee;

We would also like to re-iterate our recommendations from the first round of the UPR:

- Increase efforts to implement the recommendations of treaty bodies and include general non-discrimination provisions for all Israeli citizens in the framework of basic law;
- Ensure that human rights defenders are able to carry out their legitimate work in a secure and free environment.