

Check against delivery

**19<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Group of the UPR**  
**UPR of Qatar, 7 May 2014**  
**Statement by AUSTRIA**

Austria welcomes H.E. ... and the delegation of Qatar to the UPR and thanks Qatar for the submission of its national report.

Austria commends Qatar for the numerous efforts undertaken since its last review, including the ratification of a number of international and regional human rights treaties as well as for its constructive cooperation and engagement with the UN mechanisms and special procedures.

We also commend Qatar for its interest in taking further steps to promote press and media freedom and to contribute to the safety of journalists at home and abroad. Along these lines, we would like to recommend Qatar to amend those articles of its draft media law and the draft cybercrime law that are inconsistent with international standards of freedom of expression.

Austria also remains concerned about the situation of migrant workers in Qatar, who often suffer harsh working conditions and poor accommodation. They also risk being prevented from leaving the country if their employers fail to approve the issuing of exit permits or illegally confiscate their passports. We therefore recommend Qatar to ratify the core ILO Conventions, including the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, and to reform the Sponsorship Law, removing the requirement for foreign nationals to obtain the permission of their current employer before moving jobs or leaving the country.

Austria furthermore recommends Qatar to ratify the ICCPR and the ICESCR as well as the Rome Statute of the ICC.