

**20<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of Bolivia**

**Statement by Austria**

28 October 2014

We warmly welcome H.E. ... and the delegation of Bolivia and thank them for the presentation and the national report.

Austria commends the numerous efforts undertaken since the last review, including the ratification of international instruments and the adoption of various laws and actions plans. In addition, we commend the good cooperation between your Government and the OHCHR.

While we strongly acknowledge the efforts to improve prison conditions, in particular with regard to juveniles, we regret that there are still reports on mistreatment and unjustified punishment of inmates, and that overcrowding is still a reality.

We are also worried by the ineffectiveness of the judicial system which is confronted with a huge backlog of cases and corruption.

Moreover, we remain concerned by the widespread and persistent violence against women and girls, in particular domestic violence.

Austria offers the following recommendations:

- Take effective measures to bring conditions of detention in line with international standards, in particular by reducing overcrowding, improving the situation of juveniles and women in prison and promoting non-custodial measures;
- Ensure that any death in custody is investigated by an independent and impartial authority;
- Take concrete measures to guarantee access to justice as well as fair and timely public trials, inter alia by allocating sufficient resources to the judiciary and by improving the administration of justice.
- Establish without further delay shelters to protect women and girls from violence and effectively implement the legislation already adopted.

I thank you.