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**United Nations Human Rights Council**  
**20<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review**  
**Review of Slovenia**

**Geneva, 4 November 2014**

**Statement by AUSTRIA**

Austria warmly welcomes H.E. .... and the delegation of Slovenia to the UPR and thanks for the submission and presentation of the national report.

We welcome the involvement of civil society in the preparatory process of this UPR and encourage the Government to continue its cooperation with civil society organizations in the follow-up to this review.

Since several UN-treaty bodies have expressed their concern about discrimination and marginalization of members of minority groups, in particularly Roma, we welcome Slovenia's National Programme of Measures for Roma People aimed at combating discrimination against Roma in education, housing, health care, employment and living conditions. In addition, we recommend to strengthen efforts to reduce disparities in the enjoyment of rights between children of minority groups, particularly Roma children, and children of the majority population.

The CRC has also expressed its concern that corporal punishment in different settings was not explicitly prohibited in Slovenia. We therefore recommend to explicitly prohibit in national legislation corporal punishment in all settings, including at home.

Austria is of the view that national communities should receive appropriate recognition. We welcome the commissioned study in 2012 on the "Ethnic Vitality of Areas Inhabited by Small Minority Ethnic Communities and Autochthonous Peoples", aimed at identifying the cultural needs including of German-speaking communities in Slovenia. We also recall the 2012 recommendation of the Council of Europe regarding the implementation of the Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities. We recommend that Slovenia provides further resources for the preservation of the languages and culture of national communities, including the German-speaking community, which has for a very long time formed an important part of Slovene society.

Let me conclude by re-iterating our appreciation of Slovenia's efforts and its active role in advancing the cause of human rights at the national and international level.

I thank you.