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22nd Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of the United States of America

Statement by AUSTRIA

11th May 2015

Austria warmly welcomes H.E. ... and the delegation of the United States of America and thanks them for their presentation and the national report.

We commend the increasing number of states that have abolished the death penalty.

Austria is concerned that despite expressing its strong commitment to ratify certain international human rights treaties during its first UPR, the United States has not signed or ratified any new human rights treaty since then. Nevertheless, we acknowledge the efforts of the administration with respect to the CRPD.

We reiterate our concern - also expressed by several Treaty bodies - that individuals continue to serve sentences of life without parole for crimes committed when they were less than 18 years old.

Following up on the first UPR, Austria would like to make these recommendations:

- 1. Continue efforts towards abolishing the death penalty;**
- 2. Enact comprehensive legislation prohibiting all forms of torture and take measures to prevent all acts of torture in areas outside the national territory under its effective control.**
3. Intensify its efforts to prevent the excessive use of force by law enforcement officials by inter-alia undertaking a study to determine the factors of violent misconduct of law enforcement officials, in particular at local and state government level, taking into consideration underlying race-related motivations and publish the findings;
- 4. Consider ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child**
- 5. Consider ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court**
6. End the use of life imprisonment without parole for offenders under the age of 18 at the age of crime, regardless of the nature of that crime;

I thank you.