



PERMANENT MISSION OF SLOVENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

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UPR of AUSTRIA

Mr. President,

Slovenia welcomes the distinguished delegation of Austria and the expressed commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights. We commend Austria for the numerous positive steps in the normative and institutional framework for the national protection of human rights as well as for its leading role in international fora on issues such as the administration of justice, safety of journalists and several others.

Slovenia acknowledges with appreciation that the atmosphere for solving outstanding issues related to Slovenian minority has improved under the new Carinthian Government led by Governor Peter Kaiser. We were pleased that Austria accepted some of our previous recommendations.

While we understand the effects of budgetary restrictions on policies and programming, we must point out that the financial support allocated by Austria to the Slovenian minority has been reduced by almost a third due to inflation over the last 20 years. We therefore reiterate our previous **recommendation** no. 93.53¹.

In addition, we would like to offer the following **recommendations**:

- to legally regulate the protection of the Slovenian minority in Styria in line with international legal commitments undertaken by Austria and to adopt and implement concrete solutions to benefit the Slovenian minority in Styria, such as increasing the teaching of Slovenian language in Styrian public and high schools;
- to prevent further closing of bilingual public schools in Carinthia and take additional measures to improve the quality of bilingual education.

Thank you.

¹ Increase financial support for the Slovenian minority in the provinces of Carinthia and in Styria to the 1995 level in real terms.