



**SOUTH AFRICAN PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

**23RD SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC
REVIEW**

REVIEW OF AUSTRIA

09 NOVEMBER 2015

PALAIS DES NATIONS

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Mr President,

South Africa welcomes the distinguished delegation of Austria to the 23rd Session of the UPR Working Group and thanks the delegation for the comprehensive presentation of its national report.

We have noted with appreciation that Austria has made efforts towards the implementation of recommendations accepted during its first cycle review, in particular the withdrawal of its reservation on Article 11 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and that the withdrawal process for all reservations and declarations on the Convention on the Rights of the Child has also been initiated.

We further noted Austria's ongoing efforts to address racism and xenophobia, including efforts to ensure non-discrimination through the Amendment of Section III paragraph 1 (3) Introductory Act and that discrimination against anybody on the ground of race, colour, national or ethnic origin, religious denomination or disability, or prevention from accessing to any place or service constitutes a punishable offence.

South Africa would like to make the following **recommendations** some of which have already been accepted during its first cycle review that Austria should:

- 1. Withdraw its reservation on ICCPR, ICERD and CAT as this reservation undermines their key objectives of these Conventions;**
- 2. Assess the effectiveness of existing legislation to combat racism, hate crime and hate speech; and**
- 3. Ensure equal remuneration to men and women workers for the same work or work of similar nature and for the prevention of discrimination on grounds of sex.**

Finally, Mr. President, my delegation wishes Austria success in their second review.

I thank you.