

Twenty Third UPR Working Group: Austria

Thank you Mr. President,

Bhutan would like to extend a warm welcome to the delegation of Austria to the 23rd Session of the UPR Working Group and would like to congratulate the delegation for the exemplary manner in which the report has been compiled and presented.

Austria is a close friend and one of the key development partners of Bhutan. We appreciate Austria's important contribution to the global progress over the past decades. Austria's Aid program has made substantial progress in the areas of poverty reduction, conservation of natural resources and promotion of peace and human security in partner countries. **We recommend Austria to continue and to strengthen these support programmes and projects to improve the conditions of people in developing countries.**

We commend Austria for initiating significant number of measures to combat trafficking in human beings and in particular we welcome the adoption of the 4th National Action Plan on the fight against human trafficking. In this connection, **Bhutan would like to recommend Austria to continue with its efforts in raising awareness and knowledge on human trafficking, including through trainings and awareness-raising measures for law enforcement organs, for judges and public prosecutors.**

Thank you.