

UPR – Austria – 9 November 2015

STATEMENT by BULGARIA

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

Bulgaria warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Austria.

We would like to commend Austria on the comprehensive national report and the detailed presentation, which demonstrate strong commitment to the UPR process.

Bulgaria would like to acknowledge Austria's overall efforts to thoroughly implement the recommendations from the first UPR cycle and welcome the ratification of several human rights international instruments. However, we would like to note that the country still hasn't withdrawn its reservations on important documents, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees.

Bulgaria shares the recommendation made by CEDAW (Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women) to put a focus on gender equality in a future comprehensive human rights national action plan.

We also share the concern of several Treaty Bodies regarding the insufficient degree of protection against discrimination. Bulgaria would like to recommend to Austria to ensure equal protection from all forms of discrimination, including by extending the scope of anti-discrimination regulations, by including the grounds of religion and belief, age and gender identity.

Thank you!