



Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt

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**The Human Rights Council  
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review  
Twenty-Third Session**

**Review of Austria**

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**(Geneva, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015)**

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Mr. President,

My delegation welcomes the delegation of Austria to the UPR.

We take note of a number of positive developments included in the report such as administrative reforms, criminal definition of torture, aggravation of the definition of hate speech and a relatively more open policy towards refugees and asylum-seekers.

However, since the last review numerous areas continued to be a source of serious concern including racism and xenophobia particularly against migrants, Muslims, Roma and African-descent, as well as increasing racism, incitement and hate speech in the context of politics and elections by political parties and figures as well as by far-right wing and neo-Nazi groups, limited accountability towards racial profiling and violence by police and the reported discriminatory provisions in the new Islam law.

We recommend that Austria immediately adopts a National Action Plan against racism in accordance with the Durban Declaration and Program for Action (DDPA), and to ensure that racism and hate speech in the context of elections and politics are appropriately and explicitly criminalized and penalized.

Moreover, we recommend the following:

- 1- To ratify the International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and their Family Members (ICRMW).
- 2- To provide, in accordance with international law, protection for the family as the natural and fundamental unit of the society.
- 3- To ensure that the Austrian Ombudsman functions with full independence and in conformity with the Paris Principles.
- 4- To abolish the quota system requirement in relation to family reunification applications.
- 5- To ensure that economic, social and cultural rights are given full effect in domestic legislations and justiciable before national courts.

I thank you.

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