

62

Check against delivery

Permanent Mission of India, Geneva
Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group
23rd Session (02-13 November 2015)
2nd UPR of Austria- Interactive Dialogue
Monday, 9th November 2015, 09:00 am-12:30 pm

Statement by India

Mr. President,

India extends a warm welcome to the delegation of Austria led by H.E. Mr. Wolfgang Brandstetter, Federal Minister of Justice, and thanks the delegation for its comprehensive presentation.

2. We take note with appreciation of the comprehensive administrative reforms put in place since January 2014 and acknowledge the openness of the Austrian delegation in accepting lack of progress in some sectors owing to political compulsions and budgetary constraints.

3. We **recommend** that Austria adopts a national action plan on human rights in line with OHCHR guidelines and ensures that the appointment of its Ombudsman Board's members is in compliance with the Paris Principles.

4. We note with concern the lack of coherence and consistency in laws against racial discrimination and **recommend** an early harmonization of anti-discrimination legislation along with adequate action to address racism, xenophobia and related intolerance against migrant communities and ethnic minorities including the Roma community.

5. We urge Austria to improve the investigation of alleged human rights violations by law enforcement officials and to also explore alternatives to pre-trial detention of juveniles. We **recommend** steps to counter negative attitudes and stereotypes towards disabled persons. We also **recommend** rectification of the underrepresentation of women in public services as well as the decision making positions in the private sector.

Thank you, Mr. President.
