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**Italian intervention**

**UPR – Austria  
(9 November 2015)**

Thank you, Mister President.

We welcome the distinguished delegation of Austria and thank them for their national report and the comprehensive presentation they shared with us today.

Italy commends Austria for its long-standing commitment to human rights, also demonstrated by the constitutional protection granted to human rights and by the measures taken to implement the recommendations received during the first cycle of the UPR.

We note with appreciation the measures taken to strengthen the legislative provisions on combating discrimination and the ongoing process of evaluation aiming at harmonizing the anti-discrimination legislative framework. We would also like to express our appreciation for the project Krim.Stat.NEU, aimed at harmonizing the criminal and judicial statistics on criminal acts motivated by racism, discrimination and xenophobia. With a view to strengthening efforts in this field, we would like to **recommend** Austria to consider adopting a National Action Plan against racism, xenophobia and related intolerance.

We also **recommend** that Austria sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Let me conclude, Mr. President, by wishing Austria every success in its UPR.

I thank you

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