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JUNTO DAS NAÇÕES UNIDAS



GENEBRA

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

TO THE UNITED NATIONS

GENEVA

**Statement by H.E. Pedro Comissário, Permanent  
Representative of the Republic of Mozambique to the  
United Nations Office in Geneva and other  
International Organizations, at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the  
UPR Working Group on Austria  
Geneva, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

Mr. President!

At the outset, I wish to welcome HE Mr. **Wolfgang Brandstetter**, Federal Minister of Justice of Austria and his distinguished delegation on the occasion of their country's submission to the second cycle of Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

I take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Austria's contribution to the handling of mixed migration plight we have been witnessing in the last months, in Europe.

Austria has made strides in the implementation of the recommendations she received in the 1<sup>st</sup> cycle of UPR, in 2011, for which the country should be praised.

On her international obligations' realm, Austria ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced

Disappearance as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman, Degrading Treatment or Punishment, apart from other human rights instruments, at the level of the European Union.

I also hail Austria for withdrawing her reservation on article 11 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and for having initiated a process aiming at withdrawing all reservations and declarations on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and some reservations on the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.

On gender equality, I salute the increase on the target quota for women being employed in the federal public service, from 45% to 50%, rendering Austria in tandem with international instruments on the matter.

I take note of the efforts Austria is deploying to tackle violence against women, expressed in the National Action Plan on the Protection of Women against Violence.

On the prevention of torture and other Cruel, Inhuman, Degrading Treatment or Punishment I praise the introduction in the Criminal Code, of the specific criminal definition on *torture*, thus smoothing the handling of such crime.

On economic, social and cultural rights, I encourage the continuation in Austria of the debate on how to incorporate social human rights into the Austrian Constitution.

To conclude, Mr. President, I wish Austria every success in the present UPR exercise.

I thank you

Geneva, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015