



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

EMBASSY/PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

Statement by Ms. Gladice Pickering – Legal Attaché, during the Interactive Debates on the Universal Periodic Review of Austria, 09 November 2015, 09h00 – 12h30

Mr. President,

Namibia welcomes the delegation of Austria to the 23rd Session of the UPR and commends them on the presentation of their national report for this review.

We note with appreciation the removal of the section of the Act Governing the Employment of Foreign Nationals as well as the creation of a special administrative penal provision in the Equal Treatment Act for discriminatory housing advertisement in 2011.

The enactment of provisions to extend criminal culpability for discrimination against anybody on the ground of race, colour, national or ethnic origin, religious denomination or disability, or prevention from accessing to any place or service intended for use by the general public, is commendable.

We are also pleased to note Austria's withdrawal of its reservation on Article 11 of the CEDAW, the National Action Plan on the Protection of Women against Violence and the initiatives undertaken to ensure gender parity in all spheres of society.

Namibia would like to make the following recommendations:

1. That Austria takes further action to harmonize anti-discrimination laws to ensure equal protection on all grounds of discrimination for all areas of life.
2. That Austria takes all necessary measures to prohibit hate speech against asylum seekers, refugees and foreigners.

We wish Austria all the best during their review.