

UPR23/Austria

Statement by Slovakia

9 November 2015

Mr President,

Slovakia commends Austria for the efforts undertaken since the first UPR cycle, including the signature of several international instruments as well as legislative and institutional measures to strengthen human rights protection at national level. We welcome comprehensive administrative reform introduced since 2014 which, inter alia, allows for a considerable reduction of length of proceedings.

We recognize the Government's focus on fight against racism, discrimination and xenophobia. In this regard we positively note the amended Criminal Code regarding the aggravation of the definition of hate speech and encourage law enforcement authorities to its thorough implementation.

With regard to the protection of persons with disabilities, Slovakia is pleased to note improvements and ongoing efforts aimed at their better integration.

Slovakia would like to make two recommendations to the Government of Austria:

1. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.**
2. **Take steps to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure.**

Thank you.