

**United Nations Human Rights Council**  
**23rd Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Georgia**

Geneva, 10 November 2015

**Statement by AUSTRIA**

Austria welcomes the delegation of Georgia to the UPR and commends Georgia for the ratification of the CRPD. However, the optional protocol has unfortunately not been ratified yet. We would like to ask, how efforts to comprehensively implement the CRPD will be strengthened, in particular with regard to the sectors of education and employment?

Austria applauds the reforms carried out to address overcrowding in prisons. However, civil society has voiced concerns about ongoing ill-treatment, torture and discrimination in Georgian prisons.

Austria also welcomes the recent progress in translating Georgian news programs into minority languages. However, minority communities still face difficulties obtaining education in their native languages.

We are also worried about the limited level of participation of women in political and civic life across the country.

Austria therefore offers the following recommendations:

- Develop a strategy to increase the participation of women in decision-making positions in all branches of the government
- To continue addressing overcrowding in prisons and ensure that minimum standards are met, as previously recommended
- Advance the implementation of the CRDP by improving the inclusion of children and persons with disabilities in education and employment
- Ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRPD
- Ensure teaching and preservation of minority languages, by providing adequate general education in their native language

Finally, Austria wants to voice its concern at the lack of access of human rights mechanisms to the occupied territories.

I thank you.