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UN Human Rights Council
25th Session of the UPR Working Group
2nd Cycle Review of Hungary, 4th May 2016

Statement by AUSTRIA

Austria extends a neighbourly welcome to H.E. [N.N.] and the delegation of Hungary. Hungary's national report clearly shows the country's commitment to Human Rights in general and to the UPR process and the implementation of the 1st cycle recommendations, among them some by Austria such as on the Roma minority and hate crimes.

Hungary also deserves recognition for the leadership it has displayed in the Human Rights Council in efforts against reprisals aimed at human rights defenders.

Among our concerns regarding the current Human Rights situation in Hungary, I would like to mention in particular allegations of undue government interference with political media coverage, lack of an effective strategy to counter the increasing recourse to hate speech in public discourse, including extremely polemical statements against migrants, asylum-seekers and civil society organizations and the excessively broad interpretation often given to constitutional and legal rules allowing for restrictions of the freedom of expression (such as the "violation of the dignity of the Hungarian nation")

We take the liberty to make the following recommendations:

- 1) Take action against the worrying increase in the public use of hate speech, most often addressed at migrants, asylum-seekers but also civil society organisations and vulnerable groups.
- 2) Fully align domestic legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court through explicit provisions on the duty to cooperate promptly and fully with the Court.
- 3) Step up efforts to address discrimination and social exclusion faced by persons belonging to the Roma minority with particular emphasis on integrated schooling and social housing.