

**United Nations Human Rights Council****25<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review****Review of Sudan**

Geneva, 4 May 2016

**Statement by AUSTRIA**

Austria welcomes H.E ... and the Delegation of Sudan and thanks them for the presentation of the national report.

We welcome the recent signing of an Action Plan with the United Nations to prevent the recruitment and use of children by Sudan Government Security Forces and encourage the swift implementation of the Plan which sets out a series of measures to enhance the overall protection of children affected by armed conflict.

Austria remains gravely concerned about reports of continued violations of international humanitarian and human rights law in areas of armed conflict, such as parts of Darfur, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile state, including indiscriminate attacks against civilians and the use of rape as a weapon of war.

Austria is also deeply concerned that the death penalty is maintained in Sudan including for crimes below the threshold of the "most serious crimes", contrary to the ICCPR, and that the death penalty remains lawful for offences committed under the age of 18.

**Austria therefore offers the following recommendations:**

1. To halt and prevent attacks against civilians, including the use of rape as a weapon of war, and to allow humanitarian access to all areas.
2. To ensure effective prosecution and accountability of perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes and to fully comply with its international obligations to cooperate with the ICC under relevant Security Council resolutions.
3. To impose an immediate moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolishing it and to ensure that death sentences are never applied to persons under the age of 18.
4. To ratify without limiting reservations the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, in line with its 2011 UPR accepted recommendations.