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**35th Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Sweden**

27 January 2020

**Statement by Austria**

Austria welcomes the delegation of Sweden to the 3rd cycle of the UPR and thanks them for their report and presentation today.

We commend Sweden for the actions taken in combatting racism, similar forms of hostility and hate crime, and welcome the national plan adopted in this regard. We also welcome the awareness raising campaigns and initiatives on hate speech and xenophobia, which are essential in fostering changes in culture and attitudes. However, we have noted the concern expressed by the CERD about the high number of reported hate crimes as well as the gap between the number of reported cases and the number of prosecutions and convictions of perpetrators.

While we welcome the proposal on a general consultation system for the Sámi people, we encourage Sweden to further improve participatory rights of indigenous peoples and address possible implementation gaps linked to practice and/or sectoral legislation.

We have taken note of the intended general ban on religious schools. We would like to ask the Delegation how Sweden intends to ensure the guarantees for the respect of the right of parents that religious and moral education of children is in conformity with their own convictions.

We recommend:

1. to effectively identify, register and investigate cases of hate crimes and prosecute and sanction those responsible to close the gap between reported incidents and convictions;
2. to continue developing measures to ensure that affected Sami communities are consulted and can participate in line with the “free, prior, and informed consent“-principle on issues related to land rights, water and resources;
3. to take further steps in view of the finalisation of the work on the Nordic Sàmi Convention.

I thank you.