



**PERMANENT MISSION OF AUSTRIA**

35-37, avenue Giuseppe Motta - CH - 1211 GENEVA 20

TEL. +41/22/748 20 48 FAX +41/22/748 20 40 e-mail: [genf-ov@bmaa.gv.at](mailto:genf-ov@bmaa.gv.at)

No. 900.906.2/3-08

The Permanent Mission of Austria to the Office of the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Anti Discrimination Unit, and has the honor to transmit the Austrian responses to the questionnaire prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, pursuant to Decision PC.1/10 of the Preparatory Committee of the Durban Review Conference at its First Session (A/62/375).

The Permanent Mission of Austria avails itself the opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 12 March 2008

Office of the United Nations  
High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Anti-Discrimination Unit  
United Nations Office at Geneva  
Palais des Nations  
Av. de la Paix 8-14  
CH-1211 Geneva 10

**Preparatory Committee of the Durban Review Conference;  
Austrian Responses to Questionnaire**

**1. Can you assess the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action in your country?**

The Austrian government, together with authorities at the regional level (*Bundesländer*), has undertaken concerted efforts in order to implement the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action in recent years.

In 2004 and 2006, a new legislative framework in the field of non-discrimination was introduced. The Act on the Equal Treatment Commission and the Ombudspersons' Office for Equal Treatment (*Bundesgesetz über die Gleichbehandlungskommission und die Gleichbehandlungsanwaltschaft*) was passed; the Equal Treatment Act (*Gleichbehandlungsgesetz*) and the Federal Equal Treatment Act (*Bundes-Gleichbehandlungsgesetz*) were amended. The Act on Equal Treatment for Persons with Disabilities (*Behindertengleichstellungsgesetz*) was passed, and the Act on the Employment of Persons with Disabilities (*Behinderteneinstellungsgesetz*) was amended. As a result of these changes, the protection hitherto afforded against gender discrimination is now also applied to discrimination on grounds of ethnic origin, religion and ideology, sexual orientation, disability, and age. These legislative changes are in line with EU Council Directive 2000/43/EC and EU Council Directive 200/78/EC.

In particular in the context of the EU Action Program on Combating Racism and Discrimination 2001-2006, numerous initiatives were taken to raise awareness of discrimination issues. Inter alia, key personnel of the Ministries of the Economy and Labour, of Justice and of the Interior received awareness-raising training; police forces were given comprehensive sensitization training on interaction with persons and groups from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds; and the measures in the field of tolerance and human rights education in schools were further intensified.

**2. Can you assess contemporary manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance as well as initiatives in this regard with a view of to eliminating them in your country?**

Austria gathers information on all forms of discrimination, including racist, xenophobic and related intolerance in the country in various ways. The Austrian government cooperates closely with the EU-Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) as well as its predecessor, the EU Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC), in particular regarding racial violence and issues of legislation, education, housing and employment related to racial discrimination. Austria regularly submits comprehensive information and contributes to the funding of the FRA. The Ministry of the Justice and the Ministry of the Interior collect data on national socialist activities as defined in the National Socialist Prohibition Act and on the crime of Incitement according to s. 283 of the Penal Code. The Austrian authorities monitor closely the information collected, and adapt the efforts to combat discrimination and intolerance to the needs thereby identified.



with NGOs and international partners, implements a wide range of measures and initiatives aimed at combating and eliminating manifestations of racism in education. These measures focus on citizenship and human rights education on the national and local level in order to encourage

other fields. Individuals may, in addition or alternatively to court proceedings, file complaints

When ratifying the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial

A highly appreciated dialogue exists between public authorities and the main religious denominations in Austria, including the Islamic and Jewish communities. In particular the federal government and the governments of several *Bundesländer* and municipalities have been highly active in intensifying this dialogue.

In the context of the 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All, Austria carried out a comprehensive information campaign addressing in particular discrimination on grounds of ethnic origin and religion which aimed at fostering tolerance among the population. As part of the campaign, Austrian authorities set up a website entitled “equal opportunities” ([www.chancen-gleichheit.at](http://www.chancen-gleichheit.at)), developed TV and radio spots, organised a public event, the