

# AUSTRIA



PERMANENT MISSION OF AUSTRIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**Statement**

**by**

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**On the occasion of the  
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Commission on the Status of Women**

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*CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY!*

As a consequence, women are concentrated on a few and tendentially low-paid professional areas, which again turns out to be one of the main reasons for the high wage differences between women and men. One of the challenges we are facing is the reduction of the Gender Pay Gap: for example, through more transparency by way of internal income reports according to the Swedish model in order to initiate a discourse and to provide a better knowledge for women on what their work "is worth".

In the Government Programme 2008-2013, the Austrian Government committed itself to developing and implementing a **National Action Plan for Gender Equality on the Employment Market**. The Government's aim with this NAP is to ensure gender equality in the working world, to safeguard women's opportunities on the employment market, to lower male-female income disparity and to promote women in top positions.

Women have a right to a fair share in the budget: this has been enshrined in the Austrian constitution since the beginning of 2009.

With the amendment to the Federal Constitution, which entered into force on January 1, 2009, the internationally established concept of **gender budgeting** was enshrined in the Federal Constitution as a goal to be reached by the state. The federal government, federal provinces and municipalities are obliged to aim for the actual equality of women and men when managing their budget. This is a clear statement that equal rights for women and men should also be achieved through the budget.

This goal set by the Austrian state forms part of the budget reform which will be implemented in two phases. Since 2009, pilot projects on gender budgeting have been carried out by the ministries. The second stage of the budget reform, from 2013 onwards, foresees performance budgeting in Austria, also taking into account the aim of actual equality of women and men.

Concerning violence against women another critical area of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action:

Austria has already since 1997 taken over a leading role on an international level with the entry into force of the 1<sup>st</sup> Protection against Violence Act. This law follows the principle of enabling victims to stay at home and forcing offenders to leave the apartment and neighbourhood of the endangered person, with the latter also being held accountable accordingly by the state. Also the establishment of so-called intervention centres against violence, which establish contact with the victim in a proactive way, has been statutorily laid down and set up in all Austrian Federal Provinces. Furthermore and in further consequence, a series of measures has been taken. These measures include in particular the anti-stalking law, which entered into force in July 2006, as well as the right to court assistance. Thanks to these measures, all victims of violence in the family have the right to free psychosocial and legal court assistance in criminal proceedings. With the 2<sup>nd</sup> Protection against Violence Act, which entered into force in June 2009, a new statutory offence in case of long-lasting violent relationships was introduced, which is intended to better capture violence suffered over a longer period of time. With this law, also the Psychosocial Court Assistance, as well as the gentle interrogation of victims has been extended to civil proceedings.

In order to create an as low-threshold offer for women in emergency situations as possible, this year we have established the Online Women's Counselling for the whole of Austria. This provides a good opportunity particularly for women having no place to go in the proximity or preferring to remain anonymous to have access to free help via the Internet regarding the most diverse issues – such as divorce, violence, life crises, health, etc. Still, our objective must be to prevent violence against women to the greatest possible extent.

**As a member of the Security Council Austria has sought to actively contribute to improve the protection of women and girls from sexual and gender based violence, to increase the participation of women at all decision-making levels in conflict resolution and peace processes as well as to end impunity for serious crimes against women and girls.** We welcome recent progress made with the appointment of an SRSG for sexual violence and with the extension of the trigger mechanism under SC-resolution 1882 (2009) to include sexual violence. **The establishment of a gender entity headed by a USG will further strengthen**

## monitoring and accountability in the implementation of SC-resolution 1325

(2000). The adoption of SC-resolution 1894 (2009) under the Austrian Presidency of the Security Council was another important step towards strengthening the protection of civilians in armed conflict, in particular of women and girls. We will continue our efforts to integrate a gender perspective throughout the entire lifecycle of peacekeeping missions.

The upcoming **10<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of the adoption will be an important occasion to renew our commitment and to identify ways to address remaining and new challenges in the implementation of SC-resolution 1325 (2000). We stand ready to work with all interested delegations towards this goal.

In 1995 women gathered in Beijing with one specific goal: enhancing the situation of women all around the world. 15 years later a lot of challenges are still lying ahead of us. Let us work together to ensure de facto equality between women and men. Austria is strongly committed to achieving this goal.

Thank you!