

WORKING SESSION 5:  
Fundamental Freedoms II:  
Human Rights Education

**Statement by Austria**

Mr./Madam Chair,

Austria fully aligns herself with the statement made by XX on behalf of the European Union.

Austria attaches utmost importance to human rights education as an indispensable tool to prevent human rights violations, and to promote respect, tolerance and mutual understanding within society. In this context, comprehensive human rights education and training is especially important for public officials, including judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials

Austria fully supports the UN World Programme on Human Rights Education which foresees comprehensive activities for spreading knowledge on human rights and fundamental freedoms. Thus, Austria has introduced compulsory human rights training for all judges, prosecutors, police and correction officers in training. We are also contributing to human rights training around the world. For instance, in the context of the Human Security Network, Austria developed the human rights education manual "*Understanding Human Rights*" which has so far been translated into 15 languages. The manual is employed in human rights seminars and 'train-the-trainers' workshops in many countries around the world.

We would, in conclusion, like to offer the following recommendations:

- Participating States shall make special efforts to provide comprehensive human rights education and training to public officials, including judges, prosecutors, police and correction officers.
- Participating States are encouraged to fully and effectively implement the measures foreseen by the UN World Programme on Human Rights Education.