

## Statement on the UPR Pre-session on Austria

Delivered by: DKA Austria – Katholische Jungschar Österreichs

Geneva, 26 November 2025

This statement is delivered on behalf of Katholische Jungschar Österreichs (Catholic Children's Movement of Austria) and its development cooperation agency, Dreikönigsaktion (DKA Austria), which advocate for the rights of children and youth and for a life in dignity for all people worldwide.

The organisation is a member of “Global Responsibility – Austrian Platform for Development and Humanitarian Aid” (AGGV) and has been contributing to a joint submission in the current and previous UPR processes. We are also affiliated with “Netzwerk Kinderrechte Österreich” (National Coalition Austria), where we have contributed to the joint civil society submission by the Austrian League for Human Rights from the perspective of child rights.

The following discussion will first focus on the situation of children in Austria and then consider the state's extraterritorial obligations. Consequently, the statement is divided into two sections.

### A. Children's Rights in Austria

#### I. Overall Picture of Children's Rights

As Uruguay recommended, a major concern is the protection of the rights of all children in Austria, irrespective of citizenship, in particular of rights of migrant children as well as migrant families. Vietnam recommended to “pay special attention to combating poverty and social exclusion of children in Austria”. In Austria, 21% of children are still at risk of poverty or social exclusion. In legal terms, the 2011 “BVG Kinderrechte” enshrined certain children's rights in the constitution, whilst others were not included. Though previously recommended by several states, Austria still has not ratified the Third Optional Protocol to the UN CRC. There is also no independent body dedicated to monitoring children's rights at a national level, nor is there a National Action Plan (NAP) on children's rights.

*We therefore recommend to the Austrian Federal Government:*

- a. *The full anchoring of the Convention on the Rights of the Child at constitutional level accompanied by the establishment of an independent body for Austria-wide monitoring of children's rights as well as securing its financial resources.*
- b. *A NAP on children's rights, including the prevention of violence (considering the online dimension) should be introduced.*
- c. *Restoration of an Austria-wide standardised minimum income that covers all basic necessities of life, with a special focus on measures against child poverty.*

## II. Children's Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment

Even though Fiji recommended “to develop and strengthen the necessary legislative frameworks that address cross-sectoral environmental challenges, including climate change adaptation and mitigation frameworks” and to ensure children’s meaningful engagement, it is evident that there is still a considerable gap in the implementation of children's rights into environmental and climate policies. As stated in UN CRC General Comment No. 26, there is an explicit call to integrate children's rights into environmental and climate policies.

*It is recommended that:*

- a. *The Austrian Federal Government should systematically address in national strategies how environmental harm affects children, including systematically integrating child-specific concerns into NAPs and NDCs, impact assessments, and environmental laws. The climate protection law and the “BVG Kinderrechte” should reflect ecological children’s rights and intergenerational justice.*
- b. *The Austrian Federal Government should enable meaningful, sustained and systematic participation of children and youth in climate and environmental decision-making on all levels. This includes child-friendly complaints and feedback procedures.*

### **B. The Extraterritorial Obligations of Austria**

#### **I. Official Development Assistance (ODA) and Financing for Sustainable Development**

In the previous review, several states urged Austria to raise ODA to 0.7% of GNI. Austria accepted these recommendations, yet ODA has decreased from 0.38% in 2023 to 0.34% in 2024, with a large share counted as in-donor costs. Funding instability in 2024–2025, including an ADA funding freeze, reduced predictability and limited support for Least Developed Countries.

- a. *We suggest asking: What concrete steps will Austria take to reach 0.7% ODA/GNI and ensure predictable, needs-based funding?*
- b. *We would like to recommend: Adopt a time-bound strategy to reach the 0.7% target, prioritise LDCs, and align ODA with human rights obligations and the SDGs.*

#### **II. Child Rights Approach**

Austria currently addresses children’s rights in its development cooperation selectively, without a comprehensive implementation of the UN CRC. Although the relevant law (“Entwicklungszusammenarbeitsgesetz”, § 1 Sec. 4 No. 4) requires that children's needs be meaningfully considered, ADC lacks a systematic child rights-based approach.

*We propose the following recommendation: The Austrian Federal Government should establish a transparent and intersectional framework in cooperation with civil society organizations for mainstreaming of children's rights in the Three-Year Programme and in the entire cycle of projects and programmes of Austrian development cooperation and humanitarian aid.*



**DKA Austria**

Hilfswerk der Katholischen Jungschar

Wilhelminenstrasse 91/II f

1160 Vienna, Austria

T: +43 1 481 09 91 | Fax: -30

office@dka.at | www.dka.at

### **III. Rights and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities**

At its last UPR, Indonesia recommended to Austria to consider a twin-track approach to disability inclusion in international cooperation, with special consideration for women and children with disabilities. Despite Austria's commitment to a twin-track approach, only 1.44% of ADA projects had disability inclusion as a principal objective in 2023, and no comprehensive indicators or monitoring systems exist.

*We recommend: Make disability inclusion a cross-cutting priority, apply HRBA and intersectional approaches systematically, and monitor progress transparently.*

Contact:

Marla Mies

Advocacy Officer for Children's Rights and Human Rights

DKA Austria – Hilfswerk der Katholischen Jungschar

Wilhelminenstrasse 91/II f, 1160 Vienna, Austria

[marla.mies@dka.at](mailto:marla.mies@dka.at)

[www.dka.at/en](http://www.dka.at/en)