

## **ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO AUSTRIA (THIRD BATCH)**

### **PANAMA**

- Does Austria have any plans to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure, the Additional Protocol on Xenophobia and Racism to the Convention on Cybercrime and the ILO Convention No. 189 on domestic workers?
- The Austrian Ombudsman Board had been accredited with B status by the Subcommittee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions. There are concerns about the process of nomination and appointment of its members, including the lack of public consultation and of participation by civil society in the process. What actions is Austria taking to ensure that the Austrian Ombudsman Board fully complies with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) and has sufficient human and financial resources to perform its role independently?
- The CRC recommended that Austria consider abolishing the law that banned young girls from wearing headscarves in primary schools, classing them as ideological or religious clothing, which might lead to girls' exclusion from mainstream education. In paragraph 44 of its national report, Austria recognizes that it is aware of the delicate balance between the state's duty of respecting the freedom of religion, that the VfGH was currently reviewing the ban's constitutionality and the decision was expected before the end of 2020. We would appreciate information on the current state of affairs regarding this decision.
- What efforts are being made, including legal and other measures, to end statelessness in line with the #IBELONG campaign of the UNHCR (2014-2024) and the SDG 16.9? Has Austria considered to establish a legal basis for the automatic acquisition of Austrian nationality at birth by children born on Austrian territory who would otherwise be stateless?