**REPLIES AUSTRIA**

**General Comments on the implementation of the General Assembly resolution 68/268**

**2. *Encourages* States parties to consider the possibility of using the**

**simplified reporting procedure, when offered, to facilitate the preparation of their**

**reports and the interactive dialogue on the implementation of their treaty**

**obligations;**

Austria has used the simplified reporting procedure when submitting its 6th State Report to the Committee against torture. Austria’s response to the list of issues was submitted on 22 July 2014. In the future, Austria is planning to make use of the simplified reporting procedure in other human rights treaty body systems. At the moment the use of the simplified reporting procedure for the submission of the report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in 2017 is being evaluated.

**3. *Also encourages* States parties to consider submitting a common core document and updating it as appropriate, as a comprehensive document or in the form of an addendum to the original document, bearing in mind the most recent developments in the particular State party, and in this regard encourages the human rights treaty bodies to further elaborate their existing guidelines on the common core document in a clear and consistent manner;**

Austria is currently in the process of drafting the common core document, which will be updated whenever a treaty specific document is to be submitted.

**15. *Decides,* in line with established practice with respect to other United Nations documentation, to establish a limit of 10,700 words for each document produced by the human rights treaty bodies, and further recommends that word limits also be applied for relevant stakeholders;**

Austria has formally informed all responsible authorities concerned with the preparation of the State Reports of the establishment of the word limit for the reports.

**10. *Encourages* States parties to continue their efforts to nominate experts of high moral standing and recognized competence and experience in the field of human rights, in particular in the field covered by the relevant treaty, and, as appropriate, to consider adopting national policies or processes with respect to the nomination of experts as candidates for human rights treaty bodies;**

Austria has demonstrated its commitment to the United Nations human rights treaty body system both by the comprehensive ratification of the human rights treaties and the repeated nomination of experts for the corresponding treaty bodies. The nomination of experts is carried out by Austria strictly taking into account the requirements for the respective position, such as high moral standing, recognized competence and experience in the field of human rights. The Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs is the responsible entity for the nomination of experts and acts in close coordination with the other ministries concerned where approriate. The decision to nominate an expert as candidate is generally followed by a thorough long-term campaign by the candidate with particular regard to the highly competitive nature of the elections to the treaty bodies.

**13. *Encourages* States parties, in the election of treaty body experts, to give due consideration, as stipulated in the relevant human rights instruments, to equitable geographical distribution, the representation of the different forms of civilization and the principal legal systems, balanced gender representation and the participation of experts with disabilities in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies;**

In the election of treaty body experts, Austria attaches great importance to the principles included in the human rights instruments. Before the elections, all candidates will be assessed with a view to their expertise and independence upon which the selection of candidates will be carried out in accordance with the criteria on the election procedure stipulated in the relevant treaty provisions.