

# AUSTRIA



PERMANENT MISSION OF AUSTRIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**First Committee – 80th Session**

**Thematic Debate – Disarmament Machinery**

**Statement by the Republic of Austria**

**delivered by**

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**Counsellor**

**New York, 28 October 2025**

*Check against delivery*

Chair,

Austria aligns itself with the statement by the European Union.

We are living in times of uncertainty and unfortunately, in its current state, the disarmament machinery represents an outdated status quo, insufficiently effective and adaptable to move us forward.

The Conference on Disarmament being the most obvious having failed to produce any substantive work since the negotiation of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. However, we see similar problems in most other disarmament, non-proliferation and export-control fora and most seriously in the NPT.

Let me point towards three concrete symptoms:

1. **The consensus principle**, when applied in good faith, guides us to solutions and outcomes acceptable to all. But too often, consensus is abused for procedural maneuvers, to prevent substantive exchanges and productive work. This fundamentally undermines multilateral cooperation.
2. **The lack of inclusivity**: active participation by States from different regions introduces a clearer view of the diversity of positions and showcases valid security and humanitarian concerns not sufficiently reflected so far. Attempts to limit the participation of observers and regional organizations from some fora are clearly politically motivated with the aim of silencing critical voices. We are particularly concerned about the infringement on the sovereign rights of States to decide who speaks on their behalf.
3. **Attempts to limit the participation of civil society, academia and other stakeholders**: Our field of work requires a broadening of the discourse based on scientific evidence and input from those directly affected.

Chair,

There is an urgent need for broader reform. UN80 might be the push we didn't want but needed. The Secretary General's recommendation for the "New Agenda for Peace" and the **Pact for the Future**, highlight the need to actively engage on preparing a fourth special session devoted to disarmament (SSOD-IV).

At the same time, hastened cost cutting measures must not come at the expense of substance. We regret that shortening debate time while not cutting rights of reply, had led some delegations to misuse replies for extended baseless allegations and politicized narratives.

Chair,

The **Women, Peace and Security Agenda** not only requires us to ensure gender equality and the full, effective and meaningful participation and leadership of women in all of our meetings, but also to include gender and diversity considerations across the whole range of work on disarmament and non-proliferation. We therefore highlight the importance of the Joint Statement delivered by South Africa.

Austria remains convinced that it is in the vital security interest of all to strengthen our institutions, to stay firm on our established norms, to fully implement our treaty obligations and to continue to shape the future multilateral disarmament regime.

I thank you.