

# AUSTRIA



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**Thematic Debate – Regional Disarmament and Security**

**Statement by the Republic of Austria**

**delivered by**

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**Second Secretary**

**New York, 28 October 2025**

*Check against delivery*

Chair,

Austria aligns itself with the statement by the European Union.

Austria recognizes that meaningful progress in disarmament must go hand in hand with addressing the unique security dynamics of each region. Heightened tensions and mistrust reinforce the belief that acquiring destructive weapons is essential for security, which leads to increased arms race dynamics and instability beyond regional borders. We see this worrying trend at play in several regional contexts. Strengthening regional disarmament initiatives are essential to counter such developments. They help build trust and confidence, increase transparency and are crucial for both regional stability and advancing the global disarmament agenda.

In the area of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear-weapon-free zones around the world, such as those established under the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok, Pelindaba, and Semipalatinsk showcase what can be achieved. Their success illustrates that diplomacy, a common approach to security and disarmament are not just an abstract goal, but a practical, enforceable framework for enhancing everyone's security. Austria calls on all nuclear-weapon states to honour their commitments to these zones, ratify the relevant protocols, and provide unconditional negative security assurances to all States Parties.

These zones also represent a global contribution to security, disarmament and strengthening the taboo against use or threat of use of nuclear weapons – in full convergence with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. We also fully support the establishment of such zones in other parts of the world where they do not yet exist, not least in the Middle East, where a Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons

and other WMDs, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at between all States of the region, could play a critical role to reduce tensions and prevent further proliferation.

Chair,

Austria strongly condemns Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine. We also strongly condemn Russia's repeated and unacceptable nuclear threats and rhetoric and its military occupation of Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, which poses an unprecedented threat to nuclear safety and security. We call for the immediate withdrawal of Russian forces from all Ukrainian territories, including the ZNPP.

The safety and security of any nuclear sites devoted to peaceful purposes must not be subject to armed attack and we call upon States to refrain from such actions in line with international law.

Chair

Further, Austria remains deeply concerned by the continuing proliferation of small arms and light weapons, which exacerbate violence and instability in regions. The illicit trade and uncontrolled distribution of SALW are significant contributors to crises in many parts of the world. Austria, through the European Union, has supported comprehensive regional disarmament initiatives in this regard.

Chair,

Austria reaffirms its commitment to regional disarmament initiatives that strengthen national capacities, build confidence based on reciprocity and good faith, and strengthen cooperative security. We believe these efforts are crucial for

addressing regional instability and advancing the global disarmament and non-proliferation agenda.

Thank you, Chair.