

First Committee - 80th Session  
Thematic Debate - Nuclear Cluster

**Joint Statement on the New START Treaty delivered by H.E. Gregor W. Koessler, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Austria**

*New York, 21 October 2025*

Chair,

I take the floor on behalf of Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Egypt, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Ireland, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, San Marino, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu and my own country, Austria.

As we meet here 80 years after the first tests and uses of nuclear weapons, we recall our joint commitment, as most recently reiterated in the Pact for the Future, to the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

The Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (New START) is set to expire on 6 February 2026.

This Treaty, which entered into force on February 5, 2011, in its preamble makes very clear reference to both sides' "commitment to the fulfillment of their obligations under Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons" and "to the achievement of the historic goal of freeing humanity from the nuclear threat".

Building on prior arms control treaties and agreements, the New START Treaty serves an important stabilizing role as well as a major confidence building measure. This in particular through its successful setting and the subsequent

achievement of limits on deployed strategic nuclear arsenals since February 5, 2018.

Current high tensions underscore the need for urgent progress on nuclear disarmament, including by a return to arms control and their risk reduction, trust-building and stabilizing functions.

It is therefore urgent to preserve and achieve further reductions and limitations of deployed strategic nuclear arsenals. We emphasize that it is in the interest of all States' security that the New START Treaty is fully implemented and that further reductions and limitations of deployed strategic nuclear arsenals are achieved. Furthermore, it is in the interest of the NPT.

In light of this and the rapidly approaching expiration of the New START Treaty, we therefore call for the urgent commencement of negotiations for a successor agreement and call for a return to full and mutual compliance with the limits set by the Treaty until such time as a successor pact is concluded in order to secure the achievements of the New START Treaty before its expiry and to achieve further progress on the limits on and reductions of deployed strategic nuclear arsenals. We urge both parties to the Treaty to spare no efforts in this regard and all other states to be fully supportive.

We would welcome all relevant efforts and transparency in this regard and stand ready to assist or facilitate dialogue to enable progress.

Thank you.