

# AUSTRIA



PERMANENT MISSION OF AUSTRIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**First Committee – 80th Session**

**Thematic Debate – Nuclear Weapons**

**Statement by the Republic of Austria**

**delivered by**

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*Check against delivery*

Austria aligns with the EU Statement and the Statement of TPNW States.

Chair,

“The volume of challenges facing the global community is overwhelming. But there is only one challenge that could end civilization in an afternoon.” This year’s Nobel Laureate Assembly captured the stark reality we face. All indicators on nuclear weapons have gone from bad to worse.

Nuclear risks - already at an all-time high - have intensified further. The erosion of norms, the weakening of the nuclear taboo, the modernization and expansion of arsenals and increasing nuclear threats - notably by the Russian Federation - are driving mistrust and heightening nuclear proliferation pressures.

In parallel, we see opacity - with, in some cases, secrecy appearing as strategy.

These risks are created by a few but are borne by all. The catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons would know no borders.

The scientific evidence is clear and continues to grow. With each new study — from climate modelling to health impact assessments — the case becomes more undeniable: the use of nuclear weapons would trigger a cascading, global human, ecological, and developmental catastrophe. We also understand more about the complexities of nuclear risks, while at the same time we witness how they are on the rise.

This “nuclear trajectory” is neither sustainable nor responsible. It must be reversed with urgency. And the United Nations must remain at the heart of our collective action to do so.

For nuclear armed states, we call for

The cessations of any and all nuclear threats, whether explicit or implicit and irrespective of the circumstances. They are unacceptable, inadmissible and irresponsible.

Full implementation of the New START limits also after the Treaty expires, as fortunately appears to be possible for a year, and to urgently use this time to negotiate further reductions through a successor agreement, and

Meaningful engagement with the legitimate and scientifically grounded security concerns of the non-nuclear armed majority - in particular through robust transparency, accountability and risk reduction.

More broadly, it is essential for all states to

Reinvest in and strengthen the global disarmament and non-proliferation architecture — by strengthening the NPT, insisting on nonproliferation obligations, by finally bringing the CTBT into force and by investing in new norms from fissile material and Artificial Intelligence related to Nuclear Weapons, to the protection of civil nuclear installations.

Chair,

The vast global majority of states in this room wants to see a shift away from a security paradigm that holds the whole world and future generations hostage with the threat of mass destruction. Through the TPNW, its States Parties have decided to take concrete action towards this paradigm shift. The TPNW is a

powerful example of multilateralism at work: giving voice to legitimate security concerns, shaping international norms and building a credible path toward nuclear disarmament and also voluntarily taking on even higher level of non-proliferation commitments. We invite all states that have not yet joined the TPNW to do so.

As former Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon reminds us “Nuclear disarmament is the only sane path to a safer world.” Austria stands fully committed to that path.

Thank you.