Mr. Chairman,

The European Union has delivered statements, including on cluster III, which the Austrian delegation fully supports. In addition, the European Union has elaborated a working paper explaining the implementation of the 2010 NPT Review Conference conclusions and recommendations for follow-on action as well as a working paper on peaceful uses of nuclear technology regarding EU support for the safety, security and safeguards activities of the IAEA and countries that chose to engage in nuclear technologies in peaceful uses. Let me also add the traditional Working Papers of the Vienna Group of 10 on cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and on nuclear safety.

In the Austrian general statement that was held by the Secretary General for foreign affairs, the special position of Austria regarding nuclear power was high-lighted. At this juncture, I would like to reiterate that Austria – like all other States Party to the NPT – is exercising the inalienable right
under Article IV to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in conformity with Articles I and II of the NPT. This right also entails the option NOT to use nuclear power – however, without outright renouncing the right recognised in the NPT to do so. As past accidents have shown, nuclear power can never be 100% safe. Furthermore, given the long-term effects and responsibilities connected to the nuclear fuel cycle, nuclear power does not contribute to sustainable development. Indeed, it poses an additional risk in times of natural or man-made crises. And finally, given the combination of safety, security and proliferation concerns, nuclear power is not a viable avenue to confront other global challenges such as climate change.

The IAEA, in our view, is the major player to guarantee, that countries choosing to develop their capacities in the peaceful applications of nuclear energy do so under the best safety, security and non-proliferation conditions. Thus Austria is a strong supporter of the IAEA and traditional partner in various training activities to this end. Austria also fully supports the principle enshrined in Article IV para. 2. Even in times of economic and budgetary constraint, Austria has made extra efforts to pay its assessed contributions to the IAEA regular budget and the Technical Cooperation Fund in full and on time. In addition to the
regular assessed contributions, Austria is making further contributions
towards the construction and maintenance of IAEA office infrastructure.

Mr. Chairman,

The NPT is a comprehensive Treaty dealing with the three pillars
disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses. All three pillars are
interconnected. Against this background, Austria has been co-sponsor of
working papers on all three pillars. Let me point out two of these working
papers and demonstrate their relevance for all three pillars:

1) The Norwegian delegation has already outlined the Working Paper on
the second International Symposium on the Minimization of Highly
Enriched Uranium, which we had submitted in relation to action 61 of the
Action Plan. There were a number of policy ideas and recommendations
that the symposium co-hosts Austria, Norway and the Nuclear Threat
Initiative identified as a possible policy agenda for the future. They aim to
promote tangible progress, as well as a culture of transparency, trust and
cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy that also ensures the
highest level of safety, security and non-proliferation. They concern the
minimization of highly enriched uranium, civilian naval propulsion
reactors, transparency as well as a few ideas concerning the expansion
of efforts in these fields. Delegations to this NPT Preparatory Committee meeting are invited to take note of the second International Symposium on the minimisation of highly enriched uranium, and of the policy ideas that were generated for future consideration.

2) Together with Japan, Austria submitted a working paper on disarmament education. It was triggered by the Critical Issues Forum for high-school students, and focused on nuclear safety and security. It was organised by the James Martin Center for Non-Proliferation Studies together with the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non Proliferation. The Critical Issues Forum demonstrated the comprehensive approach we need to take on critical issues such as the nuclear question: the "nuclear Jinnih" is out of its bottle, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation as well as the safety and security of nuclear energy in its peaceful applications have to be considered together. Transparent discussions need to take place not only among the "nuclear elites". This is a question of public concern and of mutual trust. It is a question of peace and a sustainable future.

In that sense, Austria, as part of the European Union as well as in its national capacity, has made efforts in accordance with its constitution to support and to diligently implement the actions in the peaceful uses cluster, i.e. actions 47 to 64 of the action plan. The Austrian position regarding the full multilateralisation of the complete nuclear fuel cycle
remains the ideal that we would want to pursue in future discussions and also offer in regional contexts.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to conclude the Austrian intervention by noting that the NPT Preparatory Committee is clearly profiting from the proximity of the Vienna-based organisations IAEA, CTBTO, and the UNODA Vienna Office. They provide an opportunity for delegates to deepen their knowledge about the organisations, their activities and the services they provide. Let us continue with this successful experience also in the subsequent review cycles of the NPT.

Thank you.