Mr. Chairman,

The European Union has delivered statements, including on cluster III, and elaborated a working paper, which the Austrian delegation fully supports. Let me also add a reference to the traditional Working Papers of the Vienna Group of 10 on cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and on nuclear safety. In addition, Austria has offered a national report that was issued as document PC.II/1.

The special position of Austria regarding nuclear power is well known in expert conferences like this one. 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 also entails the option NOT to use nuclear power, and Austria has chosen this option.

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. Given the combination of safety, security and proliferation concerns, Austria holds the view that nuclear power is not a viable avenue to confront other global challenges such as climate change.
Austria fully respects the rights of all states to peaceful uses of nuclear energy as enshrined in the NPT. The IAEA 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. 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, thereby fulfilling its undertaking under article IV paragraph 2 of the NPT.

Mr. Chairman,

The NPT is a comprehensive Treaty dealing with the three pillars on disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses. All three pillars are interconnected. Against this background, Austria 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. I would also like to recall the Austrian position regarding the full multilateralisation of the complete nuclear fuel cycle, which remains the ideal to be pursued in order to universally achieve the best safety, security and non-proliferation conditions.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.