Mr. Chairman,

I would like to start by referring to the statements and working papers for this review cycle of the European Union to which the Austrian delegation fully aligns herself. In addition, Austria has worked within the Vienna Group of 10 on a number of working papers, some of which relate to cluster II. Let me also refer to the general statement that was delivered by Australia on behalf of the Vienna Group.

Under cluster II, we would like to take the opportunity to highlight that Austria, as part of the European Union as well as in her national capacity, has made efforts to support and to diligently implement the actions in the non-proliferation cluster, i.e. actions 23 to 46 of the action plan. Austria has also submitted an implementation report to this meeting; the report has been issued in document PC.II/1. Therefore, I will limit this statement to a single issue, an issue on which Austria traditionally has had a lead drafting role for the respective working paper of the Vienna Group. We believe that this issue would benefit from a more focussed discussion within the NPT community in the future.

Mr. Chairman,

The 2010 conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions in Action 36 encourage States parties to make use of multilaterally negotiated and agreed guidelines and understandings in developing their own national export controls. Austria would like to emphasize that it is important that all States should apply the Understandings of the Zangger Committee in their respective export control regimes. This would help further uniformity of approach and fairness in international trade.

Similarly, Austria also would like to highlight the important and useful role that the Nuclear Suppliers Group Guidelines play in the development of national export control policies. These Guidelines are an important contribution to the international non-proliferation regime and are up-dated whenever necessary. Again, all States are encouraged to apply these Guidelines in the respective export control regimes. Austria also notes that, indeed, these Guidelines find increasing acceptance and application by national authorities and that the number of states participating in export control regimes continues to grow. Recent examples are the participation of Mexico in the Nuclear Suppliers Group, and as by next week, also of Serbia.

This growth in acceptance of the export control regimes may have the potential to move beyond the circle of current States Parties to the NPT. This could present an opportunity to strengthen the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.
Indeed, we, as States Parties, are responsible to ensure that our nuclear-related exports do not directly or indirectly assist the development of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices and that such exports are in full conformity with the objectives and purposes of the Treaty. A universal approach to the implementation of Article III, including universal application of export control guidelines, could become the logical mirror image of the universality of the NPT and, related to that, of the comprehensive safeguards agreements complemented by an additional protocol.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to end this statement by confirming Austria’s support for stepping up international efforts against proliferation, pursuing disarmament and assuring a responsible development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the best safety, security and non-proliferation conditions by countries wishing to develop their capacities in this field.

Thank you.