First Session of the Preparatory Committee
for the 2020 Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty
Vienna, May 2-12, 2017

Statement by Austria

Debate on the Draft Chairman’s Factual Summary

delivered by Minister Robert Gerschner
May 12, 2017
Mr. Chairman,

Using the opportunity, let me thank you and your team for the professional and time efficient way you were conducting business during the last two weeks.

Austria would like to commend your efforts to produce a report that fairly reflects the deliberations in the course of this NPT PrepCom and which is rich in content. We also commend you for putting forward the documents “Reflections by the Chair”, which is a useful tool to guide us further through the current review cycle.

We would challenge the view that nuclear weapons contribute to international stability. On the contrary, we are of the view that the proclamation of the alleged security benefits of nuclear weapons serves as a stimulus for further proliferation, as more and more states might wish to get hold of these weapons.

Furthermore, we wish to reiterate our point of view, as expressed in various contributions to this conference that a legally binding instrument prohibiting nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination is not only fully compatible with the NPT, but will also contribute to more security for all. The security benefits of the future prohibition treaty would deserve in our view a particular mentioning.

Finally, we would like to underline that the currently negotiated instrument prohibiting nuclear weapons is not an end in itself, but will in our view serve as an effective trigger for the elaboration of additional measures, e.g. on nuclear disarmament verification, and an FMCT.

Thank you.