Statement by Austria

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, we would briefly like to recall the preliminary comments made by my delegation yesterday afternoon referring to the Main Committee I: Draft Chairman’s Report (CRP.4). In addition to the preliminary comments from yesterday afternoon, we would now like to touch upon more detailed comments on the draft Chairman’s Report.

- **PP 3**: We suggest to add to the sentence “(...) reaffirmed the commitment not to receive the transfer from any transferor whatsoever of nuclear weapons (...)” the language of the 2010 final document → reaffirmed the commitment neither to receive the transfer from any transferor whatsoever of nuclear weapons nor to transfer to any recipient (…)

- **PP 5**: We suggest adding the language of the 2010 final document at the end of the sentence “(...) on actions adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference” the expression “by all State Parties”.

- **PP 21**: We propose to amend the first sentence as follows: The total estimated number of nuclear weapons deployed and in stockpiles of the Nuclear Weapon States still amounts to more than 16,000 nuclear warheads, many of them on high alert.

- **PP 28**: We are concerned about the way that risk response capacity is presented in para 28. We stress here once again, as reflected in para 27 that the only way to comprehensively address the risks associated with nuclear weapons is through their total elimination. We therefore suggest amending the sentence as follows: “The Conference acknowledges the understandings and concerns pertaining to the devastation that would be visited […]” to “The Conference voices its concerns on the devastation that would be visited upon all human kind and underlines the urgency of achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world”.

- **PP 29**: We suggest replacing a “large number of States parties” with “majority of States parties”.

Further, with regards to the Austrian Pledge, the number has to be updated. The Pledge currently counts 84 endorsements and/or expressions of support and as
such represent nearly half of the NPT membership. This number is growing every day. Therefore, expressions of concern by some delegations expressed not supporting the Pledge being mentioned are unfounded.

- **PP30**: Change “The Conference affirms that the use of nuclear weapons would have immediate and long-term consequences (...)” to “The Conference affirms that a nuclear weapons detonation would have immediate and long-term consequences (...)”

- **OP para 42, 1**: Firstly, we underline the overall importance of 42.1. Secondly, we request – as highlighted by the statement of the 159 – to add at the end of the “under any circumstances”. We reiterate our great concern that the original language expressing that “it is in the interest of the very survival of humanity that nuclear weapons are never used again under any circumstances” seems to be contested by some States Parties. We ask them why?

- **OP 42** speaks of benchmarks and timelines, a very essential concept for us for credible future progress, however, in the following action-oriented points listed, we only see two such benchmarks reflected and we will need more in 42.3, 42.4 and 42.7. In this regard, the text has been considerably weakened compared to the text from the Subsidiary Body.

- **OP 42.6**: We do agree with this point. However, we reiterate that modernizing and developing new systems goes against the legally binding commitment of States Parties according to the treaty.

- **OP 42.7**: Change [...] with a view to reducing substantively the role [...] to [...] with a view to reducing substantively and eliminating the role [...].

- **OP 42.13**: Change [...] the Conference encourages all States concerned to ratify the nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties and their relevant protocols and to review any related reservations [...] to [...] the Conference calls upon all States concerned to ratify the nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties and their relevant protocols and to review and withdraw any related reservations.

- **OP 42.19**: The conference has to recognize that under Article VI there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control. To this end, the conference should call on all states parties to identify and
pursue effective measures to fill the legal gap for the prohibition and elimination on nuclear weapons.
A majority of States Parties clearly asks for such a legal framework. In parallel with OP 42.16 we request that the Conference urges all States to commence immediately an inclusive process to identify and elaborate effective measures for the full implementation of article VI.

- **OP 42.20:** Practical measures cannot be seen as alternative to effective legal measures in accordance with Article VI.

Generally speaking we are of the view that the tone in the operative paragraphs is too vague and lacks concrete commitment to action.

Mr. Chairman,

We submit our comments also in writing.

Thank you.