

**AUSTRIA**



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TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**The non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction**

Statement to the Security Council of the United Nations

By H.E. Ambassador Gerhard Pfanzelter

Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations

New York  
April 22, 2004

Mr President,

Austria fully endorses the statement by the Irish Presidency on behalf of the European Union and would briefly like to elaborate on the following four points:

1. I would like to thank the Members of the Security Council, in particular the main sponsors of the draft resolution, for their timely initiative to address the issues related to nuclear, biological and chemical weapons as well as their means of delivery. All of us must pursue every avenue in order to ensure that neither weapons of mass destruction nor their means of delivery fall into the hands of non-state actors.

2. Austria is pleased to note that the latest draft of the resolution reflects in its preambular part the mutual reinforcement of non-proliferation and disarmament, although we would have preferred such a reference in the operative part. My government considers it important to promote a transparent process of non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control that covers the whole spectrum of biological, chemical and nuclear weapons as well as their means of delivery. It is also of paramount importance that all States fulfil their obligations under international disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control treaties and arrangements.

3. The relationship between weapons of mass destruction and the increasing number and variety of means of delivery merits particular attention. Our experience as Immediate Central Contact for The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation, a confidence-building and security-enhancing instrument to which 113 States have so far subscribed, has convinced us of the advantage of emphasizing this aspect in the resolution. In this regard Austria holds the view that operative paragraph 6a.) should not only refer to international treaties but also to non-proliferation arrangements.

4. Should the Security Council decide to establish a "non-proliferation committee", Austria considers close coordination with the counter-terrorism committee of the Security Council, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons conducive to achieving the purpose of this resolution.

Mr. President,

My delegation would like to thank the Members of the Security Council for the transparent and inclusive process on this important issue that directly affects each Member State.

In conclusion, I would like to express our gratitude to Ambassador Günther Pleuger for scheduling an Open Debate on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the Security Council. We are looking forward to a follow-up of this process you have so ably initiated.

Thank you Mr. President.