

# AUSTRIA



PERMANENT MISSION OF AUSTRIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the  
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

**General Statement**

by

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Madam President  
Distinguished delegates,

Let me congratulate you on behalf of the Austrian delegation on your election. We look forward to working with you in the next weeks and you can count on the full support of our delegation. Austria aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

Madam President,

~~Austria is strongly committed to the NPT which remains a legal framework of~~

importance for international peace, security, and nuclear cooperation. We must recognize at the same time that its credibility is seriously challenged on several aspects.

The universality of the NPT that we all strive for is becoming an ever more remote prospect. This undermines the NPT's value as a security and confidence building instrument especially in Asia and in the Middle East. In this context, Austria fully supports the goal of a WMD Free Zone in the Middle East and the efforts that have been undertaken in the past review cycle. ~~We regret that the conference that was supposed to launch this~~

site inspection exercise in Jordan. However, the fact that the CTBT has not yet been

brought into legal effect is disappointing and damaging to global disarmament and nonproliferation efforts. We call on all Annex II States to take the necessary steps as soon as possible. In particular, we reject the notion that any one State should wait for another to ratify. The CTBT enters into force only when all Annex II States have done so.

Consequently, all Annex II States can and should show leadership on this important treaty.

Madam President

Austria is gravely concerned about the crisis in Ukraine and its potential negative

leaders in nuclear weapon States declaring the clear intention to retain nuclear weapons for several decades as being necessary for their national security. This is further evidenced by plans and very large budget allocations to modernize nuclear weapons and the respective infrastructure in nuclear weapon States. We are very concerned about these developments.

two previous meetings in Norway and Mexico. The Vienna Conference was attended by 158 States, a broad spectrum on international organizations from the UN system, the Red Cross