

**Statement by Austria**  
**delivered by H.E. Ambassador Peter Launsky**  
**General Secretary of the Austrian Federal Ministry for International and European**  
**Affairs**

Vienna, 21 September 2021

Mr President,  
Distinguished Director-General, dear Rafael,  
Your Excellencies,  
Respected Delegates,

Please allow me to start by congratulating you, Mr. President and the Bureau, upon your election as President of the 65th IAEA General Conference. I pledge the full support of the Austrian delegation to you and your team.

Furthermore, it is a matter of great importance to Austria to thank you for your valuable leadership. Your continuing efforts to achieve the crucial objectives of the IAEA are highly appreciated!

Please let me state that Austria aligns herself with the statement delivered by Slovenia of the European Union.

As representative of the host country, it is a great honor to welcome all of you here to Vienna! Please allow me to give a particular warm welcome to the delegations of **Samoa** and **St. Kitts and Nevis**, who have joined the Agency since our last General Conference.

Austria attaches great importance to the invaluable contribution of the IAEA towards international peace, security and development. We consider it a great privilege to host the Agency, its associated facilities, and their staff and we very much welcome its growing presence in Austria. It manifests itself via the Nuclear Security Training Center in Seibersdorf, which will help to further strengthen countries' abilities to tackle nuclear terrorism.

It is equally impressive to see the continuous development and innovation that is facilitated by the Agency, such as

- the initiative on “Nuclear Technology for Controlling Plastic Pollution” and
- the work in the framework of PACT and Isotope Hydrology.

Austria gladly supports these and other efforts of the Agency - including through assessed contributions to the regular budget and the Technical Cooperation Fund. We are proud to also actively contribute to the Agency’s work as board member for the period 2020-2022.

Excellencies,

The return to full participation *in* and compliance *with* the **JCPoA** is crucial for international security, non-proliferation, and the credibility of the international disarmament *and* non-proliferation regime. Therefore we very much hope to welcome back all parties to Vienna again soon – in order for them to

- resume their negotiations as well as to
- reinvigorate the agreement and to
- ensure the implementation of its goals.

Austria continues to stand ready as a strongly committed host to facilitate these important efforts. Your success is of highest importance to all of us.

There are other fields where action is needed. Recent activities in the **DPRK** are a serious cause for concern. The recent alarming IAEA report on the DPRK underscores the urgent need for dialogue and diplomacy to achieve the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. Both the Agency and the CTBTO surely can provide important contributions to a solution.

Excellencies,

The recent years have brought about a renewed focus on climate change and energy. In this context, I would like to underline – once again – that Austria does *not* consider nuclear fission power as a

- sustainable way to generate electricity nor
- to fight climate change.

We should rather invest in *renewable energy technologies* that are

- simple and quick to implement,
- easy to maintain, and
- without the *safety, security and proliferation risks* associated with nuclear power.

Excellencies,

Before closing, I would like to draw your attention to two very important upcoming events, one being the NPT Review Conference in early 2022.

The second event strengthens the disarmament and non-proliferation efforts under the NPT: With the TPNW, the clear majority of us have taken a historic and crucial step towards the implementation of the NPT's disarmament obligation. The TPNW entered into force in January of this year. Austria is particularly proud that the first Meeting of States Parties will take place here in Vienna – at the seat of the United Nations from 22 to 24 March 2022. We invite all of you to either join the Meeting as a Member State or as an Observer.

I wish you, Mr President and your Bureau and all of us a successful General Conference. Thank You.