

Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Distr.: General
1 May 2014

Original: English

Third session

New York, 28 April-9 May 2014

Implementation of the 2010 Review Conference conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions

Summary update to the reports submitted by Austria

1. In follow-up to Austria's reports to the Review Conferences of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Austrian specialized working papers and general oral reports presented during meetings of the Preparatory Committee, as well as with reference to relevant working papers of the European Union and the Vienna Group of Ten, Austria submits the following update to the report it submitted to the second session of the Preparatory Committee in 2013 ([NPT/CONF.2015/PC.II/1](#)) on national activities pursuant to action 20 of the action plan adopted by the 2010 Review Conference.

2. In line with its firm commitment to the principles and objectives of nuclear disarmament agreed to in 2010, Austria continued to underscore the importance of the recognition contained in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and the need to comply at all times with international law and international humanitarian law by working with interested States on joint statements on the humanitarian dimension of nuclear disarmament. Pursuing policies fully compatible with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the objective of achieving a world without nuclear weapons, Austria also participated in the second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, which was held in Nayarit, Mexico, on 13 and 14 February 2014. The Austrian delegation comprised diplomats and the Secretary-General of the Austrian Red Cross, Werner Kerschbaum, which bears testimony to the close cooperation between the Government and civil society. At the conference, the prior announcement by the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sebastian Kurz, of the country's offer to host the third conference in Vienna in 2014 was greeted with general support. Austria's sustained engagement on disarmament issues is a reflection of the broad political support this question has been enjoying domestically for many years, and the question has once again been included in the newly elected Government's work programme for 2013-2018.

3. With regard to multilateral processes for nuclear disarmament, Austria has continued its support for facilitating substantive work in the Conference on



Disarmament. Furthermore, the initiative by Austria, Mexico and Norway on resolution 67/56, on taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, resulted in the conduct of substantive and constructive discussions in Geneva in 2013, including with civil society, within the open-ended working group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons, which was established in 2012. The consensus report containing proposals for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons was transmitted to the General Assembly, the Conference on Disarmament and the United Nations Disarmament Commission. The General Assembly adopted resolution 68/46 and will review progress made in the implementation of the resolution at its sixty-ninth session. Another important manifestation of the shared wish to facilitate progress was the convening on 26 September 2013 of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, at which the Federal President of Austria, Heinz Fischer, addressed the opening session and expressed strong political support to these international endeavours.

4. In connection with these intergovernmental activities, Austria continued to support the involvement of civil society organizations and initiatives. In particular, the beneficial role of the broad spectrum of civil society was brought to bear at the open-ended working group in Geneva as well as in connection with the review process of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and humanitarian conferences. Interaction with and support for civil society organizations and parliamentarians is important in view of the need to ensure public understanding and support for nuclear disarmament and the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons. Austria continued its support for the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation as an important think tank and platform for high-level discussion, research and dialogue on nuclear-related issues. The Center also acts as a catalyst for disarmament and non-proliferation education in a broader sense and with a global impact. With the support of Austria, Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Vienna Center and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons co-organized an international workshop on disarmament and non-proliferation education and capacity development in Vienna in November 2013. The workshop identified steps to improve and increase contacts and communication among organizations, increase project cooperation and raise the profile of disarmament and non-proliferation education.

5. Continued support was extended to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, in particular with regard to work to be done by its Vienna office. Austria also promoted nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts through continued high-level and expert-level involvement in the activities of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In July 2013, the Vice-Chancellor and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Austria, Michael Spindelegger, addressed the IAEA conference on the theme “International conference on nuclear security: enhancing global efforts” and supported its ministerial declaration. Later, the Secretary-General for Foreign Affairs, Johannes Kyrle, joined the newly formed Group of Eminent Persons of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization in order to assist with outreach efforts for the entry into force of the Treaty. Austria continued its steadfast support for the Hague Code of Conduct, which is being given growing recognition

and importance as the only multilateral confidence and transparency mechanism in the field of the non-proliferation of ballistic missiles.

6. Austria supports the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones pending, and as a contribution to, the global elimination of nuclear weapons. In this spirit, Austria has provided expertise to regional efforts in the Middle East. Most recently, Austria sponsored a training workshop in Amman hosted by the Arab Institute for Security Studies and organized by Atomic Reporters for journalists from the region on the nuclear aspects of the efforts to establish a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

7. Promoting nuclear non-proliferation implies the continued involvement of Austria in the development of IAEA safeguards and compliance with its own safeguards obligations. It also entails the continued application of export controls and support for the activities of the Zangger Committee and the Nuclear Suppliers Group. Being involved in the global implementation of Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) as well as in thematic non-proliferation initiatives also forms part of Austria's engagement in this area.

8. At the same time, Austria remains one of the reliable supporters of the IAEA Technical Cooperation Fund and provides expertise for a variety of meetings in the fields of nuclear safety, security and, more generally, the peaceful applications of nuclear energy.
