

**≡ Permanent  
Mission  
of Austria**

to the United  
Nations in Vienna

Statement by  
**H.E. Alexander Schallenberg**

**Federal Minister for European and International Affairs  
of the Republic of Austria**

at the  
**International Conference on Nuclear Security: Sustaining and Strengthening Efforts**

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Mr. President,  
Director General,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by extending, on behalf of the host country, a **heartfelt welcome** to all of you to this **international conference** here in **Vienna**.

This is the third gathering on nuclear security. The growing attendance highlights the importance **of the work of the IAEA in general and nuclear security, in particular** for all states, **including Austria**.

**It is no secret that we are currently facing many challenges concerning nuclear security!**

**Three** of these are from our point of view a particularly big concern.

**First** there is the role of **non-state actors**, who play a big part not just in **conflicts** today. We know that some of them seek to **acquire and deploy weapons of mass destruction**.

The **consequences** of such indiscriminate attacks, including "**dirty bombs**" that carry radioactive material, would be **devastating**.

**This threat does not respect national borders!**

To tackle it, we must **increase international efforts** to strengthen nuclear security.

**Second: nuclear weapons.**

They pose a big danger to us and it is clear that these weapons **threaten life on earth!**

But instead of being decommissioned and destroyed, nuclear arsenals are being **upgraded for hundreds of billions of dollars**.

So that they will stay in service for **decades** and may become **even more lethal**.

The **diplomatic achievements** we have made and the **international organizations** created to foster **peace** and **cooperation** are **being called into question** by the words and actions of several states.

An alarming development. As we all know that **nuclear policy of deterrence** cannot bring security.

This is why Austria clearly supports the goal of a **nuclear weapon-free world** and the **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**. We will **raise our voice until the last one of these weapons is gone**.

The third challenge, Ladies and Gentlemen, concerns nuclear power.

Since the **Chernobyl accident** in 1986 a lot has been done to **minimise the safety risks** of nuclear generation of energy.

The **IAEA** has done excellent work on this and we appreciate this very highly.

But despite of all efforts, the disaster of **Fukushima** in 2011 proved once more that **there is no such thing as complete safety!**

Especially as **nuclear reactors face many security risks as environmental disasters, cyber-attacks or acts of terrorism.**

The **consequences** of any incident reach far **beyond the borders** of the concerning state.

This is why we need **cooperation, safeguards, standards and regulations** on an international level within the **framework of the Agency.**

Austria **decided not to produce nuclear power at all.** A precaution that is **enshrined in our constitution.** We hope that many more will join us.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Let me finish by reiterating that **Austria will always fully support the Agency's work,** especially on nuclear security.

This week **we will have an opportunity** to enhance the security of all states.

Not only for our today's world but also for the safety of many future generations!

Thank you.