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Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues, let me first of all stress that I am very happy to be here and to be able to follow the interesting discussions.

I would especially like to thank our Kazak hosts for their hospitality and their deep commitment to fight nuclear tests and weapons worldwide. I also want to thank you for having given us the unique opportunity to visit the former nuclear test site at Semipalatinsk yesterday **where the tests** brought destruction, pain and death to a whole region. It is indeed a painful reminder of the uncontrollable and deadly forces of nuclear bombs.

Once again it made very clear, that nuclear weapons never ever and in no way can contribute to a peaceful solution of a conflict but are instead a danger to international security. Not only because of the constant threat of a nuclear war between states but also because of the rising risk of nuclear material falling into the hands of terrorists.

We all know the idea behind nuclear weapons: It is the assumption that all countries are potential enemies. Fear and threat of complete destruction seem to be the only way to assure security and peace.

→ But this is obsolete thinking; a dangerous relict of the cold war.

→ The only possibility to stop the system of deterrence and arms race and to gain a true system of international security is to stop the production of nuclear weapons.

→ Such an international security system without nuclear weapons can only be achieved with the help of organizations that foster trust and cooperation, such as the UN, the OSCE or the EU. Organizations that focus on men and women – their lives and rights – and not on territories.

Let me give you some information about my home country:

Austria has already been following a nuclear free security strategy for a long time; “ nuclearfree” meaning without nuclear technology both in the military as well as in the power production field. We have had this broad consensus among the political parties and among the population against the military and the civilian use of nuclear power for decades now. And I dare to say, it became part of our identity.

In 1999 the Austrian parliament voted unanimously even for a constitutional law that bans the use of nuclear power for military purposes and energy production in Austria.

- **It forbids the production, stocking, testing and the transport of nuclear weapons.**
- **It prohibits the construction and operation of nuclear power plants in Austria.**
- **It bans the transport of fissile materials except those for peaceful usage apart from energy production.**

In Austria's security strategy the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is listed as one major threat to Austria's security.

→ Consequently the prevention of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, regional and global disarmament and arms control are important aims of the Austrian security policy.

In line with this security policy the Austrian Parliament carried a motion requesting the government

- **to work actively on the European and international level for a world without nuclear weapons**
- **to support the realization of UN General Secretary Ban Ki Moons 5 point proposal on nuclear disarmament**
- **and to enhance the co-operation with other countries supporting this proposal.**

We have to improve our bi-and multilateral co-operations, but we also have to broaden the participation of non-military and non-governmental actors AND of women on security issues.

Austria is very active in developing and implementing the UN Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, which aims at a much higher percentage of women dealing with security issues.

We are one of the few countries with a national plan to implement the Resolution. And , ladies and gentlemen, it is a fact, it has been proven, that women are of great need and indispensable help and necessity in peace keeping and peace building.

There are many steps on the way to a world without nuclear weapons.
A very important one is the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

It is a **central** element of a **very complex** political, technical and legal system helping to approach the goal - to get closer to a world without nuclear threat. The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty is so important because it prevents states from investing in the development of new types of nuclear weapons thus keeping “new” states from starting to experiment with such means of aggression and destruction.

The Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO – (the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organisation) has not only established an efficient global alarm and control system with a data center to detect any nuclear explosion on earth. It has also set up a communication and educational system, worldwide in the web but also at its headquarters in Vienna.

Both the Austrian ministry for foreign affairs and the ministry of **defence** – which is very much engaged in global disarmament and non-proliferation – are supporting the Commission in its work. One of the projects is a communication project.

Its aim is

- To offer training beyond the traditional stakeholders
- To create awareness and understanding
- To inform the public
- To put pressure on governments

Ladies and gentlemen, at this point I want to thank the organizers of the PNNO (Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Disarmament) to bring us parliamentarians together here in Astana. Networking across the borders is so important because borders don't stop the nuclear threat.

The threat of nuclear proliferation is a global one, a threat to each single country, a threat to our people.

Threat and fear are no good advisors.

But working together makes us strong to raise awareness by informing the public in our countries in order to set a next step: signing and ratifying the CTBT (Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty) in our parliaments.

Thank you