

AUSTRIA



PERMANENT MISSION OF AUSTRIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

First Committee – 77th Session

**Thematic Debate – Other Disarmament Measures and International
Security**

Statement by the Republic of Austria

delivered by

Mr. Daniel Röhlin

First Secretary

Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations, New York

New York, 24 October 2022

Check against Delivery!

Mr. Chair,

Austria fully aligns with the Statement delivered by the European Union. In our national capacity, we wish to add the following points:

Since the last dedicated debate on this cluster in 2019, the importance of cybersecurity has increased considerably – unfortunately, we have also seen the tremendous harm that irresponsible and illegal behavior in cyberspace can cause. A case in point are the illegal cyber attacks accompanying the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which did not only affect Ukraine but also caused spillover effects in other countries.

We therefore welcome the increased attention given by the UN to the topic of cybersecurity and welcome the important work carried out by the Open-Ended Working Group which completed a successful first year of its deliberation with the adoption of a progress report – which this Committee will hopefully welcome by consensus. This report and its recommendations lay the foundations for the future work of the group. We welcome the active engagement of various stakeholders in the OEWG, but at the same time regret that a large number of important stakeholders from industry, academia, and civil society were barred from participating in its work due to unsubstantiated vetos. We cannot work on cybersecurity without interacting with the stakeholders who decidedly shape it.

Austria will continue to advocate for an open, free, stable and secure cyberspace, based on the full applicability of international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law and guided by the framework for responsible behavior of States in cyberspace, adopted by consensus.

More remains to be done, especially when it comes to the exact scope of the applicability of international law, capacity building and confidence building measures. We will continue our efforts to this end in the OEWG and hope that the existing good practices in these areas can be examined, for example by including

exchanges with regional organisations in the framework of the OEWG. We are convinced that a Programme of Action can be an ideal vehicle for making progress in the implementation of the normative framework, which is why we are supportive of the resolution on the PoA tabled by France.

Mr. Chair,

We are encouraged to see that the resolutions under this cluster cover important aspects of the work in disarmament and international security that have been neglected for too long. I will briefly touch on two issues here.

First, we welcome the important and increased work undertaken by ODA in recent years in the field of disarmament education. In times of increased global tensions, it becomes ever more important to pass on information about our work – this will build awareness and will help us raise the next generations of experts doing vital work on disarmament affairs.

Finally, the past years have seen the world not only grapple with armed conflict, but also with a global pandemic and the ever more acute consequences of climate change. Yet, the resource allocation between these three poles of crisis has not been equal. We would like to repeat our call from last year that we need to move away from the dangerous misconception, that security can only be ensured by military and armament. The non-military crises we are witnessing should be a wake-up call to lead us to a broader understanding of security and to better integrate disarmament instruments and measures into all efforts to build and maintain security.

I thank you.