Austrian EOV on

“A path to the total elimination of nuclear weapons” (A/C.1/57/L.42)

Mr. Chairman,

let me, at the outset, thank the delegation of Japan for the elaboration and presentation of the the draft resolution entitled "A path to the total elimination of nuclear weapons" (A/C.1/57/L.42). We highly appreciate the spirit of cooperation Japan has demonstrated throughout the consultations on this resolution.

Austria has voted in favor of this resolution as it contains many elements to which my delegation fully subscribes. Austria fully shares Japan’s commitment to the cause of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and in particular to the full implementation by all States Parties of their obligations under the NPT. In this respect, we attach particular importance to the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference and the practical steps for the systematic and progressive efforts to implement article VI of the NPT and paragraphs 3 and 4 (c) of the 1995 Decision on "Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament" agreed to in the Final Document.

Against this background, we regret to say that in the present resolution operative paragraph 11 on the IAEA safeguards system and on the additional protocols falls short of our expectations. There is no doubt that among the many measures which need to be taken to adequately address the threat of nuclear terrorism and to detect undeclared nuclear activities has to be the strengthening of the verification capabilities of the International Atomic Energy Agency by means of strengthening its safeguards system. Hence, the conclusion of additional protocols and the swift implementation of the integrated safeguards system are key elements for enhancing nuclear non-proliferation. Unfortunately, the language in operative paragraph 11 does, in our view, not reflect the importance and urgency of the measures which have to be taken both by the IAEA and its Member States in order to accelerate the build-up and full implementation of the Agency’s integrated safeguards system. We do hope that next year’s resolution on this subject will take these concerns into due consideration.

Thank you Mr. Chairman