

**Vienna Conference on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons**  
**Hofburg Palace, 8 – 9 December 2014**  
**Aide Memoire**

- Austria is grateful for the very positive comments about the decision to host the next international conference on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. The conference will take place on 8 – 9 in December 2014 at the Hofburg Palace in Vienna.
- Austria considers the increased focus of the international community on the humanitarian consequences to be an important development. The facts based discussions at the conferences in Oslo (2013) and Nayarit (2014) have contributed to a greater understanding of the unacceptable immediate and long-term humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons explosions, as well as of the considerable risks as a consequence of proliferation, the vulnerability of nuclear command and control networks, in particular to cyber-attacks, to human error and the potential access to nuclear weapons by non-state actors.
- Austria is convinced that the focus on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons has a positive and unifying effect on international discussions about nuclear weapons. In light of the humanitarian consequences and risks associated with nuclear weapons for all states, the case for their elimination is underscored clearly as a shared objective and urgent priority.
- In Austria's view, there is growing momentum to firmly anchor the humanitarian imperative in all discussions about nuclear weapons and nuclear disarmament.
- Austria wishes to strengthen the global nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation regime, including the NPT, and generate momentum for a greater and urgent focus on achieving nuclear disarmament. Austria is fully aware that different views still exist about the approaches on how nuclear disarmament, the elimination and the prohibition of nuclear weapons should best be pursued. Austria deems it essential that states feel at ease at the Vienna conference irrespective of the approaches they favor.
- Austria is developing the agenda for the conference in consultation with interested parties with the aim to circulate it, together with detailed information on the registration for the conference and other organizational issues, well in advance of the conference.
- Austria intends to follow the example of the Oslo and Nayarit conferences. Therefore the Vienna conference:
  - Will be open to all interested parties. All states will receive an official invitation and will be invited to nominate experts and/or senior officials. International organizations and civil society with relevant expertise will also be welcome;
  - Is planning for a limited sponsorship program for LDC participants;
  - will feature facts based discussions and expert presentations and aims to allow for an interactive debate among participants;
  - will also give an opportunity for statements of a more general nature by delegations.
- Austria will attempt to reflect the discussions and proceedings in a factual chair's summary. Austria does not foresee a negotiated outcome of the conference.
- Austria stands ready to consult with all interested parties in the coming months on how to ensure that the Vienna conference provides a productive forum to generate momentum for progress on nuclear disarmament.
- Austria looks forward to the active participation in the discussions at the Vienna conference that is commensurate to the urgency of achieving our shared objective of nuclear disarmament and a world without nuclear weapons.