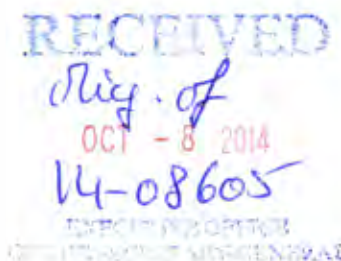




EUROPE
INTEGRATION
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
FEDERAL MINISTRY
REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA



Central

SEBASTIAN KURZ
FEDERAL MINISTER

ACTION *CWJ*

H.E.
Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the
United Nations

COPY *DSC*

Kane
Nasser
AG
RA

Vienna, 16 September 2014

BMEIA-AT.2.07.27/0301-II.8/2014

Excellency,

I would like to refer to the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons (8 and 9 December 2014) and it is my pleasure to invite you to the opening of the conference on 8 December 2014. Your presence, either in person or through a message, would be highly appreciated and a key contribution to the success of the conference. In addition, and in order to facilitate a broad interest also among the wider public and the media in this important subject matter, the involvement of the UN messenger for peace Mr. Michael Douglas would be of great benefit.

The Vienna Conference is intended to deepen the international community's understanding of the broad range of humanitarian issues around nuclear weapons use and the risks associated with these weapons. It builds upon the discussions at the earlier conferences in Norway and Mexico. Invitations to all States and to relevant international organisations, including several organizations from the United Nations family, have been sent out recently. A draft program for the conference is attached.

In the five-year action agenda for your second term at the helm of the United Nations, you renewed your commitment to revitalising the global disarmament and non-proliferation agenda. On numerous occasions you have stated that the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and international humanitarian law have gained prominence during the last years, referring specifically to the conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. Austria and I personally highly appreciate your personal commitment and efforts, as well as those of High Representative Ms Angela Kane, to promote the cause of a world without nuclear weapons.

Austria is among the staunchest supporters of this common endeavour. The increased focus on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons is a very important development, which has a positive and uniting effect on the international nuclear weapons discourse. The more the international community understands the scale of these **consequences** and of the risks involved, the clearer the case and the stronger the sense of urgency become for the

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elimination of nuclear weapons. Saving humankind from these consequences is a shared and urgent priority.

Austria aims for a broad participation at the conference. We have conducted the preparations in an inclusive manner and hope that all states, including the states possessing nuclear weapons, will engage constructively in this important discourse. Recent geopolitical developments have only highlighted the urgency of this issue. The objective of the conference is, therefore, to give more momentum and urgency to nuclear disarmament efforts. This is of particular importance also in view of the 2015 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, the integrity and credibility of which is seriously challenged inter alia by the limited progress in the implementation of the disarmament obligations contained therein.

We need to act together urgently to educate future generations and to save them from the risk of devastation through nuclear weapons and to promote peace and a sustainable future. For such a future, *ending the historical nightmare known as the age of nuclear weapons*, as you so rightly put it recently, is not just important but most likely a precondition. I hope that the Vienna Conference will make an important contribution to this endeavor.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Philip", followed by a large, stylized flourish or initial.



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VIENNA CONFERENCE ON
**THE HUMANITARIAN IMPACT
OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**
8–9 DEC. 2014

In 2010, the Review Conference of the NPT expressed “deep concern about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons”. Since then, the international community has increased its focus on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. This important development is demonstrated by a wealth of national and international activities in the past few years, in particular the international conferences in Oslo (2013) and Nayarit (2014).

The facts based discussions at these conferences 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 associated with nuclear weapons. The active participation and engagement by States, international organisations and civil society underscore the growing momentum to firmly anchor the humanitarian imperative in all discussions about nuclear weapons and nuclear disarmament. Austria is convinced that the humanitarian focus has a positive and unifying effect on the international nuclear weapons discourse. The more the international community understands the scale of these consequences and of the risks involved, the clearer the case and the stronger the sense of urgency become for the elimination of nuclear weapons. Saving humankind from these consequences is thereby underscored as a shared and urgent priority.

Building on and following the examples of the two previous conferences, Austria will host the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons on 8 – 9 December 2014. Your organisation is cordially invited to participate and to nominate up to four representatives for the Vienna Conference. Please find attached herewith the indicative program of the Conference as well as other relevant information.

Austria is aiming for broad participation by governmental representatives and experts from all States, relevant international organisations, academia and civil society organisations active in this field. Austria will be encouraging States to consider including elected representatives, such as parliamentarians and/or mayors, in their delegations.

The Vienna Conference aims to further deepen the discussions on the range of short and long-term consequences of nuclear weapons explosions, including on public health, environment, climate change, food security, displacements, development, infrastructure, among other consequences. The conference will also cover aspects related to risks associated with nuclear weapons as well as risk response and mitigation. Moreover, the Conference will address international law as it pertains to the consequences of nuclear weapons.

Austria does not foresee a negotiated outcome of the conference and will attempt to reflect the discussions and proceedings in a factual summary, under the responsibility of the Chair.

Austria looks forward to a broad and engaged participation of all stakeholders committed to progress in our shared objective of nuclear disarmament and a world without nuclear weapons. We need to act together urgently to educate and to save future generations from the risk of devastation through nuclear weapons and to promote peace and a sustainable future. Austria looks forward to welcoming your delegation in Vienna.

Permanent Mission of Austria
to the United Nations in New York

Ref.No. New-York-ÖV/PROT/0061/2014

New York, 1 October 2014

Excellency,

I have the honor to forward the attached original of the letter of H.E. Mr. Sebastian Kurz, Federal Minister of Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria, addressed to H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations. A copy of the Minister's letter was already submitted on 18 September 2014

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Andreas RIECKEN

(Deputy Permanent Representative)

USG Ms. Susana Malcorra
Chef de cabinet
S3821
UN Secretariat Building



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VIENNA CONFERENCE ON
**THE HUMANITARIAN IMPACT
OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**
8-9 DEC. 2014

**Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons
8 and 9 December 2014 in the Hofburg Palace Vienna, Austria.**

Draft Program¹

Sunday, 7 December 2014

10.00 – 17.00 Pre-registration of Participants at the Conference Venue

Monday, 8 December 2014

8.30 – 10.00 Registration of Participants at the Conference Venue

10.00 – 11.00 Opening Ceremony

- Sebastian Kurz, Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of Austria
- Statements by other distinguished speakers

11.00 – 12.45 Session I – Impact of Nuclear Weapons Explosions

This session will further address the wide range of short and long-term consequences of nuclear weapons explosions, inter alia in the areas of health, environment, socio-economic development, climate, food security, and infrastructure, and the potential interaction of these consequences. A focus will be put on the impacts of nuclear tests.

Expert presentations are followed by Q&A and interactive debate

12.45 – 2.15 pm Lunch

¹ Please note that this draft program may be subject to changes based on the consultations with and comments of interested parties and the availability of speakers. A consolidated annotated agenda will be made available in due time prior to the Conference.

2.15 – 4.00 pm Session II – Risk Drivers for deliberate or inadvertent Nuclear Weapons Use

This session will further address the range of human and technical factors that could lead to the explosion of (a) nuclear weapon(s), such as human error, negligence, miscalculation, miscommunication, technical faults, risk calculation, vulnerability and cyber security.

Expert presentations are followed by Q&A and interactive debate

4.00 – 4.30 pm Coffee Break

4.30 – 6.15 pm Session III –: Scenarios, , Challenges and Capabilities regaring nuclear weapons use and other events

This session will address possible scenarios of nuclear weapons use/explosions, including explosions of radiological devices. Response plans and challenges of the international system as and implications for States will be discussed.

Expert presentations are followed by Q&A and interactive debate

6.15 – 7.45 pm Reception for all Participants at the Conference Venue

Tuesday, 9 December 2014

9.00 – 10:45 am Session IV - International law and the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons – a “bird’s-eye view”

This session will provide an overview of the norms of existing international law as it pertains to the environmental and health consequences of nuclear weapons explosions and international humanitarian law as well as the humanitarian dimension in existing disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation instruments.

Expert presentations are followed by Q&A and interactive debate

10.45 – 11.15 am Coffee Break

11.15 – 12:30 pm Discussion / General Debate

Delegations will have the opportunity to take the floor for more general contributions to the debate.

12.30 – 2.00 pm: Lunch

2.00 – 3.45 pm Discussion / General Debate continued

3.45 – 4.15 pm: Coffee Break

4.15 – 6.00 pm Discussion / General Debate continued

6.00 pm Closing Session – Presentation of Chair's Summary

Sebastian Kurz, Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of Austria will present the summary of the proceedings and discussions in the form of a chair's summary under his personal responsibility

6.30 pm Conference ends