

II. AUSTRIAN Intervention to the elements for a Political Declaration

Austria fully aligns with the statement delivered by the EU - we consider your elements for political declaration as an excellent basis for our work. As you rightly mentioned, paragraph 9 is particularly complex and important:

Firstly, we see merit in bringing paragraph 1 closer in line with the preamble of the Convention.

Secondly, in paragraph 6 it's important for us to keep a reference to the concept of human security – we agree with others, that we need to send a strong political message. A message which is conscience and forward looking. A reference to the importance of multilateralism and a rule based order could be useful.

We agree with you, that paragraph 9 is highly complex and simultaneously important. *Austria fully supports this proposal by the chair. Ever since adoption the number of countries using cluster munitions has decreased. We should encourage this trend. It proves the strength and the normative character of the CCM. It is important to uphold the norm against cluster munitions and reinforce the message by speaking out against the users.*

Concerning paragraph 12, we think “at the earliest” would be stronger and thus more appropriate than “as soon as possible”.