Permanent Mission
of Austria to the
United Nations in Geneva

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UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
60th Regular Session

General Debate under Item 4

23 September 2025

Thank you, Mr. President,

Austria aligns with the EU Statement.

We firmly reiterate our strong condemnation of **Russia**'s illegal, unjustified and unprovoked war of aggression against **Ukraine**, including the ongoing Russian attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure, and call upon Russia to immediately, fully and unconditionally cease its aggression and withdraw from Ukraine's entire territory.

Austria continues to be deeply concerned about the ongoing situation in the **Middle East**. We call for an immediate ceasefire in **Gaza** and the unconditional release of all hostages, as essential steps toward a lasting end to hostilities, and a Gaza without Hamas. We are alarmed by the severe humanitarian crisis in Gaza, the unacceptable number of civilian casualties, the widespread levels of starvation and acts of terrorism.

We call on Israel to fully comply with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law. This includes ensuring immediate, unimpeded and sustained access to humanitarian assistance for civilians in Gaza, and the discontinuation of illegal settlement activities in the Westbank.

Austria is alarmed by escalating atrocities in **Sudan**, where clashes between SAF and RSF devastate civilians, with mass displacement, starvation, and reports of sexual violence. In **eastern DRC**, M23 and other armed groups commit grave abuses, including massacres, forced displacement, and recruitment of children. We call for the protection of civilians, sustained humanitarian access and accountability for these violations.

Please also refer to our statements on China, Myanmar, Iran and El Salvador under Item 2 and respective interactive dialogues.

I thank you.