Statement by

H.E. Sebastian KURZ

Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria

at the 75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

New York, September 21, 2020

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President of the General Assembly,
Secretary General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Born out of the ashes and destruction of the Second World War, the United Nations this year looks back on a 75-year-old history.

75 years of commitment to multilateralism that has led to some remarkable achievements which we can all be proud of.

Let me mention a few examples:
- a strong human rights system
- peacekeeping
- the international disarmament architecture
- the Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals
- leadership in the fight against climate change.

The COVID-19 pandemic has illustrated in the most dramatic way how interconnected and interdependent we are.

It has shown that no country can fight the pandemic or solve other global challenges alone. International cooperation with the UN at its centre is crucial in this endeavour.

Last but not least,
Let me point out that 2020 marks also a special year of anniversaries for Austria:

- It has been 65 years since we joined the United Nations,
- 60 years since we first contributed to the UN peacekeeping operations
- and 40 years since Vienna became host to the third of four United Nations Headquarters worldwide.

Austria will remain a dedicated advocate of the United Nations and effective international cooperation.

We are proud of the contribution we have made so far and stand ready to support all efforts to make the United Nations fit for the next 75 years.

Thank you.