

## Salzburg Forum Vienna Process Conference 12/13 April

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*Vienna, 12 April 2018*

Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues and Friends,

Allow me, first of all, to express my gratitude for inviting me to attend this Ministerial Conference of the Salzburg Forum. I am honoured to address you today on behalf of an organisation whose membership includes almost all of the fifteen Salzburg Forum states and friends of the Salzburg Forum as well.

The purpose of the “Vienna Process” is to discuss an ambitious migration and security agenda; and to make this agenda more sustainable by involving upcoming EU Presidencies early and in a structured way. This approach can only be welcomed. When we look at the main drivers of migration – conflict, demography, development and prosperity gaps – we have to conclude that their impact will increase in the years to come. Crisis-resistant asylum systems and strong border protection are absolutely crucial for a European agenda which should meet these challenges. It will require time, political will and a well-structured process to make it a reality. And this is why the “Vienna Process” is such an important initiative.

I do not have the time to discuss all the excellent proposals of the two room documents for this conference but would like to highlight a few of them. Today, only three percent of the globally displaced people have access to one of the so called durable solutions – repatriation, resettlement or integration. It has to be our joint objective to improve this situation. It is a humanitarian obligation; but it is also the only way to prevent people in desperate situations from turning to human smugglers in order to reach Europe. The link between protection in the region and resettlement is absolutely key for gaining control over migratory flows, but also for ensuring cooperation with our non-European partners and for regaining the trust of the European voters in the functioning of the system.

But even if we succeed in the area of protection and asylum, we must not fool ourselves. The desire to migrate to Europe will exceed the demand for immigration also in the future. We have to become a lot more serious about controlling our external borders. Again, we should openly and thoroughly discuss the proposals laid down in the room document on Border Protection. But no matter what we conclude in the end, one thing is for sure: We have to

send a very clear signal that circumventing the rules of our system does not pay off; neither for human smugglers nor for irregular migrants.

Finally, I do not believe that we can make our European system more crisis-resistant without enhancing cooperation with our non-European partners based on a partnership approach and in line with their economic and security interests. There has been significant progress in this regard. The new cooperation instruments of the European Union, like the European compacts or the EU-Africa Trust Fund, have a clear focus on addressing the socio-economic conditions of migration and significantly increased financial means to do so. I believe that a functioning European “Security Union” will have to rely on these tools as well.

Thank you very much.