

PREFACE

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Mayor and Governor of Vienna

Austria is proud to host the Vienna based UN organisations and agencies (UNIDO, UNODC, IAEA amongst others) as well as several other important international organisations (like OPEC, OSCE e.a.). Therefore, Vienna has always been particularly committed to maintaining and intensifying international contacts.

The international organisations based in Vienna have fostered Austria's reputation as a hub for dialogue, encounters and multilateral diplomacy. People from all over the world have come to work at the Vienna International Centre, and today they enrich our city and contribute to Austria's cultural diversity.

If today Vienna is considered an international, open-minded metropolis at the heart of Europe, this is also due to the fact that we are the only United Nations Headquarters in the European Union. We are very proud to host the UN and the many other international organisations – and we are equally grateful for it.

Since 1970, the International Peace Institute (IPI) has been convening its annual Seminar on Peacemaking and Peacekeeping in Vienna. In the light of Austria's membership on the Security Council in 2009/10, the 39th IPI Vienna Seminar provides an excellent opportunity for an in-depth discussion of "The UN Security Council and the Responsibility to Protect".

Let me reassure you that we will continue to make every effort so that Vienna feels like home to all people who represent their organisations and countries here with such great commitment.

