

FOREWORD

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The annual International Peace Institute (IPI) Vienna Seminar on Peacemaking and Peacekeeping not only highlights the long-standing and productive partnership that exists between the IPI and Austria since 1970. Over the years it has become an institution itself, emerging from a small circle of practitioners and active peacekeepers into a widely recognized forum for the discussion of peace and security issues in a wider sense. Moreover, the Vienna Seminar is a clear manifestation of Austria's firm commitment to further promoting Vienna as a hub for dialogue and host of international organizations and to continuing our engagement in peacekeeping and peace-building efforts on the ground.

As an elected member of the United Nations Security Council in 2009/10 we seek to support the Council in exercising its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. In an effort to contribute to the Council's work we dedicated this year's Vienna Seminar to the role of Security Council and the responsibility to protect populations from the scourge of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. Our purpose was to deepen the understanding of the concept of the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP) endorsed by Heads of States and Governments at the 2005 World Summit and to explore possible ways of its implementation. The deliberations in Vienna have clearly shown that the three-pillar strategy outlined in the Secretary-General's report of January 2009 – i.e. the primary responsibility of each individual state to protect its population from the aforementioned core crimes, the responsibility of the international community to help states to exercise this responsibility and the readiness for collective action in a timely and decisive manner should a state fail or be unwilling to protect its population – provides a solid framework for turning RtoP into a reality.

Let me seize this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to IPI President Terje Rød-Larsen and his committed staff for their efforts in preparing and successfully conducting the Seminar. I would also like to sincerely thank all speakers and participants who indeed made this exchange of views a very fruitful and instructive experience. My special thanks go to the National Defense Academy and the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna for their continued cooperation and hospitality over many years.

It is my hope that the contributions to the IPI Vienna Seminar 2009 contained in this publication will find many readers and facilitate further discussions on how to effectively implement the "Responsibility to Protect". And I am particularly grateful to the City of Vienna for her generous support that made this Favorita Paper possible.



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