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**NOTE**

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From: Presidency  
To: Delegations

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Subject: Conference “Security and Migration - Promoting Partnership and Resilience” - Presidency Statement

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Delegations will find in annex the above-mentioned Presidency statement concerning the conference “Security and Migration - Promoting Partnership and Resilience” held in Vienna on 13-14 September 2018.

**Ministerial Conference**  
**“Security and Migration – Promoting Partnership and Resilience”**  
**13-14 September 2018, Vienna**

**Presidency Statement**

At the invitation of the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the Ministers and representatives of Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chad, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, the United Kingdom, the European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship and representatives of the European External Action Service, EASO, Europol, Fundamental Rights Agency, Frontex, IACA, ICMPD, Interpol, IOM and UNHCR met in Vienna on 13 and 14 September 2018. Egypt participated as observer.

BUILDING ON the discussions in the context of the Central Mediterranean Contact Group under which three ministerial meetings have been held so far in Rome on 19-20 March 2017, in Tunis on 24 July 2017 and in Bern on 13 November 2017

RECALLING the existing multilateral Valletta, Rabat and Khartoum Processes as well as the trilateral Task Force AU-EU-UN

CONSIDERING our common responsibility for the Mediterranean as well as the conclusions of the European Council of 28 June 2018 that stress the importance of a partnership with Africa

AWARE OF common challenges to security, stability and positive development in Africa and Europe, in particular those posed by migrant smuggling by organised crime networks, irregular migration, violent extremism and terrorism

CONVINCED that current and imminent problems in the fields of security and migration, including the tragic loss of life along the migration routes, both on land and at sea, can only be addressed in constant collaboration

AIMING to make the best possible use of and further develop existing initiatives and programmes in the mutual interest

the Presidency stresses that there is a need for sustainable, comprehensive cooperation in the mutual interest in the fields of security and migration as well as in other relevant policy areas.

In this spirit, it is important to make the best possible use of and further develop appropriate cooperation arrangements as part of a comprehensive approach to migration and security. This aims at contributing towards promoting positive development in the respective countries and towards strengthening the resilience of both state and society thus protecting citizens to the greatest possible extent. To ensure a continuous exchange of information is key for the success of mutual cooperation.

With this in mind, the Ministers and representatives discussed goals and options in order to jointly work towards promoting sustainable migration policies and security partnerships in their mutual interest as well as in line with the national competencies. Especially the following goals were stressed and/or should be further explored:

**In the field of migration and cooperation:**

- Addressing the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement;
- Preventing irregular migration as well as migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings;
- Enhancing the efficiency of border management and border protection;
- Strengthening protection standards in regions of origin and in countries of initial reception, in cooperation with international organisations like UNHCR and IOM;

- Strengthening asylum and migration systems in particular in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) as well as with the relevant bodies and agencies of the European Union, such as the European Asylum Support Office and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency;
- Improving cooperation in the fields of return and readmission while respecting our obligations under international law, including the principle of non-refoulement;
- Improving cooperation in the field of legal migration and mobility;
- Ensuring that human rights of migrants are fully respected;

**In the field of security and cooperation:**

- Promoting stability and investment in the respective countries by combating crime and corruption;
- Combating the root causes of radicalisation and violent extremism;
- Condemning xenophobia, racism and intolerance against migrants;
- Improving the effectiveness of law enforcement in view of strengthening the rule of law;
- Supporting an effective cooperation with Europol and Interpol;
- Promoting regional cooperation;
- Developing coherent, structured security cooperation among the partners involved;
- Promoting cross-border cooperation in the fight against migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings by also involving African and European partners as well as the African Union.

Based on the discussions during the conference and with a view to achieving concrete progress towards realising these goals, the Presidency recommends to base the mutual cooperation on the following principles:

- The Ministers and representatives should assume their respective responsibilities in accordance with international law in the fields of migration and internal security in the best possible manner.
- Where support in assuming one's own responsibility is considered expedient, the partners involved should support one another in the best possible manner and in the shared objective of solidarity.
- Within their respective fields, the partners should also seek to promote enhanced cooperation in other areas that are relevant to internal security and migration management, such as education and training, trade, culture or tourism.
- The Ministers and representatives should take necessary measures in the interest of all states involved and which have a positive impact on the development of their relations.
- The Ministers and representatives should ensure respect of the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the promotion of the rule of law in their countries which are to be considered as important prerequisites for successful cooperation.

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