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**Effective Multilateralism in a globalized world –  
The case of Europe and Asia Pacific**

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Minister Kneissl,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

1. I would like to begin by thanking the Austrian Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs and in particular HE Ms Kneissl for organizing this timely conference. Such discussions further promote Vienna's international reputation as a central hub for security dialogue.
2. The overall theme of today's Conference focuses on effective multilateralism. Let me draw your attention to the word "effective". In the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, effective multilateral cooperation is needed more than ever before.
3. Let me share a few thoughts on the matter with you.

**The role of multilateral cooperation**

4. The international security environment today is experiencing a serious stress test. It is affected by uncertainty and instability. Working, multilateral agreements are broken, security threats in different regions are multiple.
5. Should these recent developments call into question the instruments and approaches we have used so far to promote non-proliferation and disarmament? Are these tools obsolete? Is there a need to invent new ones? Can multilateral cooperation even be effective today?
6. These questions are as pertinent today for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) as they are for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). And in this regards, the OSCE should be commended for being able, over the past 25 years, to adjust its *raison d'etre* and work priorities in line with the swiftly evolving security environment. The establishment of the OSCE Asian Partnership is one such example.
7. As to my questions, I am deeply convinced that in times of tension and insecurity, what we need is to make full use and promote extensively what we already have. These are – effectively verifiable and credibly enforceable negotiated agreements.

**Situation on the Korean Peninsula**

8. When speaking about the Asia Pacific, the elephant in the room today is clearly the situation on the Korean Peninsula. It is of crucial importance that every effort, both bilaterally and multilaterally, is made to find a peaceful and diplomatic solution to the DPRK's nuclear issue. The 27 April Inter-Korean summit has paved the way for this and surely can be regarded as a historic meeting.
9. The resulting Panmunjeom Declaration welcomes multilateral efforts. It expresses agreement by the two countries to actively seek support and cooperation of the international community in the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. It is my sincere hope that this path continues at the prospective Summit in Singapore. Yesterday's statement of the Permanent Representative of the DPRK in Geneva that the country will join international efforts to ban nuclear tests was also encouraging.
10. The CTBTO is ready to provide all necessary assistance to support a transparent and verifiable denuclearization process. It is no longer in a preparatory phase as many believe erroneously. Only yesterday, at the R20 World Summit, during exchanges with a number of leaders I learned again that still the scope and extent of our Organization and its value for the international community needs to be better known.
11. The CTBTO has the required expertise, unique verification technology and the much needed international credibility to confirm and monitor the closure of the Punggye Ri nuclear-weapon test site. We possess the technical and political tools to support efforts for lasting peace and security in the Korean Peninsula. We have the tools and there is urgent need to use them.
12. Any settlement or agreement with DPRK has to go beyond the DPRK's declared moratorium on nuclear testing. Signature and ratification of the CTBT are crucial. We call on those states that are already strong supporters of the CTBT and that are directly concerned with the DPRK's denuclearization, to advocate along these lines. And to lead by example.

### **Conclusion**

13. To conclude, let me be clear. We should not engage in reassessing the very value of multilateral cooperation today, but rather focus on how to put it back on track.
14. Let us not reinvent the wheel. We already have the necessary tools. What is needed is the political will of states to use them. To this end, better coordination between multilateral actors, is crucial to avoid unnecessary overlap and duplication of efforts. Let us rather concentrate on how to capitalize on each organization's strength to contribute to the process.
15. I hope the conference today will help identify concrete steps needed to strengthen our collective security, which is key, most importantly, for the future generations to come.
16. Thank you.