

Short Outline of Speech on the Occasion of the Conference on Climate Change and Security
(Stockholm, 15 October 2009)

Topic: Climate Change and International Security - The Need for Preventive Foreign Policy and the Role of Foreign Ministries

Main Content:

- The main task of Foreign Ministries is to contribute to international peace and stability. Therefore, Foreign Ministries must react to the risks of climate change.
- Climate Change will challenge many societies` adaptive capacities. This could result in destabilization and new threats and jeopardize international security, stability and peace. Dangerous anthropogenic climate change increases the risk of conflicts, especially over the distribution of resources, of water and land, and contributes to environmental migration.
- There is a need for preventive foreign policy using the traditional means of international diplomacy.
- Foreign Ministries need to anticipate new evolving crises and develop the necessary mechanisms to prevent them. One important aspect ist the support of adaptation strategies for developing countries. In this context, there cannot be no “one size fits all”.
- -Every region, every country needs a specific approach. It must include all instruments we have at hand, e.g. regional cooperation mechanisms, development cooperation, institution and capacity building, confidence building measures and dispute settlement mechanisms.
- It is a typical task of Foreign Ministries to develop a coherent agenda and strategy addressing all these aspects
- On the EU level: Foreign Ministries of EU member states should invest much more into a coherent, future-oriented common foreign and security policy which encompasses the consequences of climate change.
- Foreign Ministries can contribute by further strengthening the system of international environmental governance and developing international law in the field of protection of environmental migrants.
- Finally: When we speak of security threats, we imply a comprehensive concept of security. By the same token, these threats should be addressed through civilian means.