

Ms. Elena K. Sokova  
Executive Director  
Vienna Center for Disarmament  
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Dear Ms. Sokova,

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate you on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP). In these short ten years, the Center has established itself as a crucial hub for training, convening of effective dialogue and supporting work on disarmament and non-proliferation. I am proud that as a co-founder and staunch supporter of the VCDNP, Austria was and is able to play a part in its genesis and continued growth.

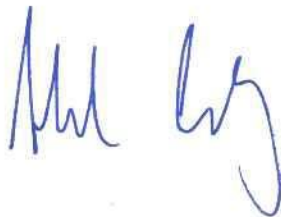
I am impressed by the more than 60 partnerships the Center has established so far, providing vital links between them and international organizations, academic institutions and other organizations and groups. This demonstrate its firm place in international disarmament and non-proliferation efforts.

The impact of the VCDNP's work is obvious to all practitioners in Vienna. The biannual courses on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament have given several hundreds of diplomats and other practitioners a jump-start into these highly complex subject matters. The quality of the Center's work is also appreciated far beyond Austria. Notably, the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 73/73 singled out the VCDNP's high-quality contribution to capacity building in the field of disarmament.

The Center has gone beyond training and research by establishing itself as a platform for dialogue to connect practitioners, expert and academics. As such, it contributes to the unique "Vienna spirit" which is based in large part on the informed, professional and collegial decision-making that has become increasingly rare in other places.

In closing, let me congratulate you again on these highly successful first ten years and I look forward to working together towards the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of two parts: a name that appears to be 'Paul' and a surname that appears to be 'Loy'. The signature is fluid and cursive.