

ASEM FMM13 à Nay Pyi Taw

20 novembre 2017

Plenary session I: Synergizing Peace and Sustainable Development

Intervention du Ministre des Affaires étrangères et européennes Jean Asselborn

Dear State Counselor, Dear colleagues,

Let me first thank our hosts, the Government of Myanmar, for their warm welcome and hospitality. Luxembourg hosted the previous ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting, so we know what it takes to organize such an event.

I am convinced that this meeting will be fruitful. Indeed, we need a **common approach** in order to ensure lasting peace and sustainable development.

In the face of increasing global challenges and intense regional tensions, **multilateralism** must prevail. The key words here are cooperation, dialogue and finding common solutions in a multilateral framework, for the sake of humanity.

At the heart of multilateralism are the **United Nations**, where Secretary-General Guterres is leading important reforms in the peace and security pillar and in the UN development system. Peace and sustainable development go hand in hand, together with human rights and the rule of law, if we are to ensure a peaceful, rules-based international order.

For peace to be durable, governments must be accountable to their people. Everyone should have fair and equal access to basic needs, food, water, housing,

education, healthcare, and be able to make a decent living, regardless of gender, religion, ethnicity or identity.

It is, therefore, with serious concern that we witness that **basic human rights are globally under threat.**

In order to implement the ambitious **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, each of us must do its part. My country therefore supports the idea of a **budgetary compact for development.**

Luxembourg contributes **1% of its Gross National Income for Official Development Assistance.** We will continue to pursue an ambitious development cooperation policy, including with our partners here in Asia.

In order to ensure peace and sustainable development, we also have to step up efforts to **fight climate change.** The **Luxembourg Green Exchange** we launched in 2016 is the first stock exchange in terms of global share of listed green bonds, with securities worth now over 63 billion euros.

Dear Colleagues,

Today we are seeing a widespread increase in negative reactions towards **migrants** and **refugees**. People seem to forget that many of those who have to flee their homes are forced to do so, due in particular to conflicts.

In this context, the situation in the **Middle East** continues to be of utmost concern. The apocalyptic situations in Syria and Yemen call for renewed peace efforts. We also have to help bring a durable solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict.

The rigorous implementation of the nuclear deal with **Iran** is key, both for regional stability and for nuclear non-proliferation. We need also to talk to the Iranian authorities regarding their ballistic missile programme and their role in the region.

We now have a clear threat coming from the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**. The nuclear tests and missile launches by North Korea are violating the UN Security Council's resolutions and destabilizing the region. I sincerely hope that we will avoid the worst-case scenario, through pressure and dialogue.

Dear colleagues,

I cannot close my remarks without sharing Luxembourg's concerns regarding the situation in **Rakhine State**. I thank our Chair, State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi, for briefing us earlier today on Myanmar's efforts to urgently address the humanitarian emergency, ensure humanitarian access, finalize the negotiations on returns and implement the recommendations of the Advisory Commission led by Kofi Annan.

We encourage Myanmar and Bangladesh to conclude as soon as possible a Memorandum of Understanding on repatriation to facilitate the safe, voluntary, dignified and sustainable return of those who fled their homes.

Thank you.