

## Security Advisory for UN staff and conference participants

### at the Vienna International Centre

Austria and Vienna continue to enjoy an overall low rate of crime. However, the incidence of petty crime has increased somewhat over the past two years, especially in Vienna. Petty criminal acts such as pick-pocketing and purse-snatching are taking place mainly in the tourist areas of Vienna's 1<sup>st</sup> District; at bus and train stations and on the U-Bahn (subway). Most crimes are crimes of opportunity, involving the theft of personal belongings and are generally non-violent and weapons are seldom used in their commission.

An incident has recently been reported where two conference participants were robbed on Wagramer Strasse in the vicinity of Gate 2. They were initially stopped by a man looking for directions. Shortly afterwards another unknown person, in plain clothes, claiming to be a "police officer from the drug control unit" confronted the delegates and asked to see their passports and the wallets/purses they were carrying. The delegates complied with the request and shortly after the items were returned, the delegates noticed that their money had been stolen.

The matter was reported to the local police who advised that while such a crime was known to take place in the 1<sup>st</sup> District, this was the first such incident reported in the areas close to the VIC.

As the criminals may attempt something similar again, staff and conference participants are advised to exercise caution. Should you find yourself in such a situation, you should ask the individuals to show their police badges **PLUS** their official police ID cards (a sample copy of both is attached). If the "police officer" refuses to do so, head back towards the VIC or towards a public place and seek assistance from a security officer or other member of the public. The matter should also be reported directly to the police (call 112).

Although this would appear to be an isolated incident and no violence was used, caution should be exercised at all times.

# Police - ID



# Police Detectives Cockade

