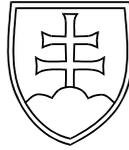


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STATEMENT

by

**H. E. Mr. František RUŽIČKA
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Slovakia
to the United Nations**

**Debate of the United Nations Security Council
United Nations Peacekeeping: a multidimensional approach**

**21 January 2013
New York**

Mr. President,

1. Slovakia welcomes the opportunity to contribute to this Open Debate on the important topic of UN Peacekeeping with a focus on the nexus between peacekeeping and peacebuilding. At the outset I wish to state that Slovakia aligns itself fully with the statement made by the European Union. In addition I would like to make some comments reflecting our national priorities regarding the topic of our debate today.

2. It is important to note that the role played by UN Peacekeeping missions has changed considerably in recent years. This evolution can be seen in particular in the area of justice and security sector reform. Supporting such processes has been a key part of the mandate of over a dozen field missions. Peacekeepers are now asked to take on a more proactive role and have become peace builders. Early stages tend to focus on stabilisation with SSR aspects often linked to certain clauses of peace agreements and the effectiveness objective of SSR. With security restored, as the focus shifts to peacebuilding, it is important to ensure that the accountability objective of SSR (including fiscal accountability) is not forgotten and that it is fully taken into account in the country's reconstruction/development plan. In countries where a conflict has resulted in the demise of the state or its inability to project itself nationally, national dialogue and grass-roots level engagement in SSR is essential to the success of the reforms and the consolidation of peace.

3. Given Slovakia's role as co-Chair of the UN Group of Friends of Security Sector Reform (SSR), we would like to share with you some specific insights drawn from a series of events on the UN approach to SSR we have recently organized here in New York. On 10-11 December 2012, Slovakia – with the support of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – hosted the launch of the first set of UN Integrated Technical Guidance Notes on SSR; a high-level meeting of the UN Group of Friends of SSR; and an expert-level seminar on 'The UN and SSR: Towards the Next Secretary-General's Report on SSR'. These events provided some key lessons that are of relevance to today's debate. Notably, in order to support effective multidimensional peacekeeping, there is a need for: First, clarity on strategic priorities across the peacekeeping and peacebuilding continuum; second, appropriate capacities that match the needs of today's multidimensional peacekeeping missions; and finally, effective partnerships based on coordination, cooperation and comparative advantages. Allow me to provide some more detail on these themes.

4. First, the launch event that Slovakia supported involved a presentation of the UN Integrated Technical Guidance Notes developed by the UN Inter-Agency SSR Task Force. These guidance notes are intended to support field and headquarters practitioners, and deal with issues such as the democratic governance of the security sector, peace processes and SSR, and gender responsive SSR. Of particular relevance to today's debate is the guidance note on UN support to national security policy and strategy making processes. Supporting such national

processes from the outset of a peacekeeping mission can help national actors to articulate a national strategic vision based on clear priorities that guide international support through the evolution from peacekeeping to peacebuilding. National security policy making can thus help to enhance coherence of international efforts in the area of SSR, support integrated planning within the UN system and enable the allocation of resources in line with national strategic priorities.

5. Second, the high-level meeting of the UN Group of Friends of SSR involved presentations from Member States that have organized regional workshops on the UN's approach to SSR. Indonesia and Slovakia jointly co-hosted such an event in Jakarta in March 2010 entitled 'The Role of the United Nations in Multidimensional Peacekeeping Operations and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding: Towards an ASEAN Perspective.' At the Jakarta workshop it was recognized that demands on peacekeeping missions are increasing. In fact, it was highlighted that UN multidimensional peacekeeping has essentially become – I quote – “peacebuilding with security guarantees”. Against this background, calls were made for greater complementarity of efforts between peacekeeping and peacebuilding actors. It was noted however that this depends largely on resource challenges. On the one hand, there is a need to address donor fatigue linked to the separate funding of peacekeeping and peacebuilding, notably by identifying and acting on funding gaps, as well as by considering the interoperability of different funding instruments. On the other hand, efforts are also needed in the area of human resources notably by enhancing civilian expertise in peacekeeping in line with the Civilian Capacity initiative. Let me further explore the latter point.

6. Getting the right people into the right posts at the right time is crucial, whether in a civilian, police or a military capacity. The systems to staff positions need to keep up with the shifting requirements of thematic areas. For example, within SSR, this greater focus now includes Security Sector Expenditure Work, which calls for new skills to be factored into recruitment, training, and the development of new partnerships. Thanks to the report of the Senior Advisory Group on Civilian Capacity, we now know where gaps are and therefore where to focus our attention to ensure that field missions are staffed appropriately and in a timely fashion to deliver on important Security Council mandates. We welcome the steps taken to date to implement the recommendations of the report and urge all concerned to redouble their efforts. In the meantime, it is our responsibility as member states that the skill and experience of the personnel we second to peacekeeping mission correspond to the needs on the ground. It is also our responsibilities to ensure that the mandates are realistically formulated.

7. The multi-dimensional nature of SSR requires civilian staff and uniformed personnel to combine their different skills, bringing together understanding of the political, technical and process-oriented aspects. Furthermore, SSR is not separate set of tasks, but rather a process that impacts on and is influenced by many others. This means that training peacekeeping operations personnel on SSR needs to be fully integrated across missions, incorporating units responsible for different areas or dimensions (for example, the police component, the civil component that support to political processes, support to restoration of core government

functions, and support to economic revitalisation). Joint SSR training should occur both before deployment and throughout the mandate of the mission as context and linkages evolve.

8. Lastly, with the multitude of actors on the ground providing assistance, coordination among international and national stakeholders remains as important as ever. Slovakia recognises the responsibility of Member States to support missions given a coordinating mandate, and cooperating fully in this area. It is worth mentioning that one of the key recommendations which emerged from the recent SSR events hosted by Slovakia was the key importance of strengthening partnerships between the UN and member states as well as regional and sub-regional organizations and non-state actors involved in SSR. Partnerships should also entail a greater focus on providing support to south-south cooperation in the area of SSR and peacekeeping.

Thank you for your attention.