



STATEMENT

by

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Open debate of the Security Council

on

Maintenance of international peace and security

Security sector reform: challenges and opportunities

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-Check against delivery-

Mister President,

Slovakia fully aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by H. E. Thomas Mayr-Harting on behalf of the European Union and its member states. In addition I would like to make few remarks in my national capacity.

Slovakia has been a proud sponsor of **the issue of Security Sector Reform (SSR)** within the UN system. The first Security Council open debate on this subject took place under our presidency in February 2007. The presidential statement adopted at that meeting provided the foundations for shaping the United Nations' SSR agenda, calling for the first Report of the Secretary-General on this topic. In the seven years that have passed since, the Organization has accomplished significant steps. This includes, among other things, the establishment of the UN Inter-Agency SSR Task Force and the development of the Integrated Technical Guidance Notes on SSR which support a coherent and coordinated system-wide approach to SSR. The Secretary-General's second Report on SSR of last August is yet another milestone in the success-story of SSR within the UN. This progress is much demanded by growing number of cases the UN Security Council deal with. We are pleased to note that the resolution to be adopted today is seeking concrete approaches to implementing the many important recommendations of the Report.

In his Report, the Secretary-General encouraged Member States to continue to develop partnerships which are considered vital in tapping into the required expertise, resources and political support to further national and international efforts. Slovakia is committed to **building such partnerships in support of the comprehensive and sustainable implementation of the Secretary-General's Report on SSR** and the recommendations made therein. We seek to enhance three types of partnerships: Among Member States, between the UN and regional organizations, and between the UN, Member States and civil society.

First, in its capacity as founder and co-chair of the Group of Friends of SSR, Slovakia has made significant efforts to raise awareness and knowledge about SSR and the related UN processes **among Member States**. Through regular meetings and events, we have sought to forge a consensus around the UN's agenda on SSR. As an example, the launch of the Integrated Technical Guidance Notes in New York in December 2012 and in Geneva in March 2013, and the high-level meeting on the Secretary-General's second report on SSR in November 2013 in New York, served to consult Member States on priorities for further developing the UN's approach to SSR. I am proud to say that the Group of Friends has not only strengthened the exchange between Member States, it has also become an effective interface and important forum between States and the Inter-Agency SSR Task Force.

Second, Slovakia also seeks to support the forging of **partnerships between the UN and regional organizations**. It is only natural to seek the ways for fostering cooperation in the domain of SSR between the UN and African Union as well as EU, NATO, OSCE. Slovakia has already co-organized couple of events in Africa in order to encourage stronger partnership between the UN and African Union in the field of SSR and we plan to continue in this effort also in the near future. Likewise, Slovakia aims to enhance cooperation between the UN and the OSCE. In July of this year, Slovakia will be co-hosting, a joint UN-OSCE event on SSR in partnership with Switzerland as the current chair of the OSCE. This responds to calls made in the Security Council Presidential Statement spearheaded by Nigeria in 2011 which noted the need for further partnerships with regional organisations to support the exchange of lessons learned and best practices. This stands testimony to our belief that the comprehensive implementation of the Secretary-General's report requires partnerships with regional organizations in order to consolidate the UN approach to SSR and to increase its sustainability.

Third, Slovakia is also seeking to further strengthen **working partnerships between the UN, Member States and Civil Society**. We recognise the vital role of civil society in strengthening the national ownership of SSR processes. Civil society should be integrated at every step of the way, from

the development of a common national security vision, to the implementation of reform processes, and to the review of progress. Most recently we have addressed these issues in international conferences and seminars including *inter alia* event organised in New York together with Japanese and Tanzanian Governments on **inclusivity in the Security Sector Reform**. When it comes to supporting the strengthening of the UN's approach to SSR, I would like to highlight the instrumental expertise and support that has been provided by civil society organisations, institutes and think tanks. In particular, Slovakia maintains a **long-standing partnership with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, which has provided its support to many of the Group of Friends events as well** as to the development of the Integrated Technical Guidance Notes. Fostering such partnerships with civil society organizations, institutes and think tanks is important for sustainable implementation of the Secretary-General's recommendations.

Mister President,

Moving forward, I would like to highlight three areas that I believe merit particular attention when reflecting on the way ahead. These relate to the need **to strengthen core capacities for the UN to deliver support, to coordinate its support, and to review the progress of its delivery on the ground.**

First, if the UN is able to meet the growing requests for the coherent delivery of SSR support as outlined in the Secretary-General's Report, there is a **need to strengthen its internal capacities**. The significant increase of SSR structures in peacekeeping operations and special political missions, as well as the rise in mandates of missions to support SSR-related tasks, underline the real demand for strengthened resources. I encourage further reinforcement of the UN's capability to deliver coherent support, including the strengthening of the Department for Peacekeeping Operation's SSR Unit, as this will translate to a more advanced collaboration in the field.

Second, **the UN should continue to enhance its coordination capacity to deliver SSR support as one**. Significant progress has already been achieved in this regard. Beside efforts of the Inter-Agency SSR Task Force and the Department for Peacekeeping Operation's SSR Unit as its secretariat, I would like to particularly emphasize the Integrated Technical Guidance Notes, which are a landmark in fostering a "Delivering as One" approach to supporting nationally led SSR efforts of Member States. We fully support request by the UN Security Council to make security sector reform an integral part of the good offices role of the Secretary-General's Special Representatives. SSR is in first place a political process.

Third, by enhancing its capacities in **carefully reviewing the progress on SSR through systematic monitoring and evaluation processes**, the UN could not only improve its endeavours with lessons learned, it could also ensure that its resources are allocated in the most effective, efficient, and sustainable manner possible. In this regard, I welcome the ongoing efforts of the UN Inter-Agency SSR Task Force of developing a specific integrated technical guidance note on monitoring and evaluation.

Mister President,

Slovakia's continuous efforts as co-chair of the Group of Friends of SSR underline our conviction of the importance of SSR for the UN system and its global efforts. In this capacity, allow me to emphasize again the importance of building partnerships for an enhanced implementation of the Secretary General's Report and its recommendations. The UN should not stray from its endeavours of increasing its internal, coordination, and reviewing capacities. They are vital to the effective, efficient and sustainable delivery of SSR support to Member States and emphasize the overall aim of the UN's approach to SSR, which is to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security.

Thank you for your attention.