



**STATEMENT**

**by**

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**Open debate of the Security Council  
on  
United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and their Potential Contribution  
to the Overarching Goal of Sustaining Peace**

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## *Check against delivery*

Mr. President,

I wish to thank you for organizing this event, continuing the series of open debates in the Security Council over the past few months, addressing different aspects of sustaining peace. I also want to state in the beginning that my delegation fully aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier by the distinguished representative of the European Union.

Mr. President,

The UN finds itself in a process of major reforms that is bound to revitalize the organization in all three pillars of its work. Providing for peace and security stands at the very core of the UN. It is not a coincidence that maintaining peace and security has been anchored in the very first section of Article I of the Charter.

Building on the spirit and upholding the principles of the UN Charter, we shall continue to aspire to high goals. Breaking the conflict cycles and arriving at sustainable solutions also means that we need to continually evolve and adapt, in particular the ways and means that we have in our UN toolbox.

Peacekeeping missions represent the flagship activity of the UN, but they should not be mistaken as an end to itself. In each and every scenario, we need an overarching strategy that aims at a sustainable solution grounded in a firm political agreement.

Slovakia has been an active troop and police contributing country, serving in 19 UN missions with more than 7 500 men and women. Currently, Slovak troops and policemen wear “blue helmets” in Cyprus, on the Golan Heights and in Haiti. We intend to continue in this endeavor and actively engage in peacekeeping operations in the years to come.

Peacekeeping missions are a very valuable tool that needs to be employed with utmost deliberation and responsibility. We need to make sure that the peacekeeping operations will continue to restore hope of the people and promote the credibility of the UN – *not the opposite*. We highly commend and subscribe to the initiatives such as the Kigali principles and the voluntary compact to eliminate sexual exploitation and abuse. Being a peacekeeper means being accountable and holding yourself to the highest standards.

Mr. President,

We need aspiring goals and sustainable solutions, and for that, we need adaptable mandates. That is using our tools in an effective way at a given moment and under specific circumstances. The mandates need to evolve and adapt as to reflect operational and political realities on the ground.

We shall always keep in mind the entire continuum of the conflict cycle, thinking one step ahead, but also one step back. That means that before we engage in a peacekeeping effort, we need to know why the conflict broke out, why the prevention phase failed, and also how do we plan to arrive at a sustainable solution. In other words, we need to ask questions what are the benchmarks of progress and what is our exit strategy.

Peacekeeping represents only one of the ingredients of the recipe for a sustainable solution. Maintaining peace and security is a complex process, where various strands of UN assistance have their righteous place.

But UN organizations do not always coordinate as closely as they should. To do so, peace operations need to be part of an integrated approach. Missions must be linked to other available instruments for promoting peace, security and stability, including integrated planning, and implementation and assessment to ensure consistency and coherence. High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (*HIPPO report*) made important recommendations on reforming and strengthening UN peace operations through an effective political strategy, improved design and implementation of mandates and enhanced partnerships to make them much more effective, agile and responsive to the current realities.

For some years now, Slovakia has identified Security Sector Reform (SSR) to be one of the key elements for effective conflict prevention and successful post-conflict rebuilding and stabilization. The direct experience from many UN and AU peace missions and operations clearly shows that a nationally-led and inclusive SSR process can progressively deal with the root causes of insecurity and fragility and create an enabling environment for sustainable development and peace to take place. In addition, SSR is directly linked to the protection of civilians and the rule of law – two critical tasks that have become an integral part of almost every peace operation.

It is clear that in the current security environment the UN can no longer solely rely on traditional methods to counter emerging threats and challenges. We need to continue being innovative, to adjust and remain flexible. We need to step up to new challenges - before spoilers disrupt delicate peace processes, before we lose even more blue helmets and more importantly, before we lose peace on the ground.