



**STATEMENT**

**by**

**H. E. Michal Mlynár**

**Permanent Representative of Slovakia  
to the United Nations**

**Open debate of the Security Council**

**on**

**Maintenance of international peace and security: Addressing complex contemporary  
challenges to international peace and security**

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Mr. President,

First of all, I join other delegations in thanking you sincerely for convening this meeting. Today, we are discussing a very interesting and timely topic. This debate is important as it contributes to building a common understanding and required consensus about the need for a comprehensive and concerted approach that the maintenance of international peace and security requires today.

This meeting is also timely in the light of our ongoing constructive dialogue on the reform of the United Nations. As you know, today the General Assembly took an important action on a resolution that will help the Secretary-General to take his reform proposal for the United Nations peace and security pillar into the next phase and allow him to elaborate further on his reform proposals in this field. The GA resolution adopted by consensus today reflects our collective determination to revitalize the UN to better serve the needs of the peoples around the world. Together with the Permanent Representative of Rwanda, I was honored to co-facilitate the process of informal consultations and drafting of that GA resolution in an open, transparent and inclusive manner with the aim of ensuring the Member States' ownership and support of this important endeavor, while building trust and consensus.

Mr. President,

Slovakia aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. I would like to add a few points in my national capacity.

The Security Council, as the primary United Nations body responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, plays a leading role in shaping the UN action in this area. As has been pointed out in your concept note, Mr. President, the Security Council has in recent years repeatedly discussed and expressed its views on a wide range of non-traditional and cross-border threats, including those concerning public health, exploitation of natural resources, climate change, transnational crime, poverty and under-development and forced displacement. We very much welcome today's focus of these linkages.

First of all, we think that the Security Council should deal with these issues in a more systematic and targeted fashion, including through exploring and identifying the linkages, synergies and correlations among them. Each and every conflict scenario is different, there is no "one size fits all." We shall strive, however, to identify and address the root causes and drivers of conflicts that hinder the path to peaceful solutions.

The growing impact of these cross-cutting challenges on international peace and stability calls for updating the tools at the Council's disposal in order to better integrate diplomatic, economic, military and capacity-building responses (instruments) in conflict resolution and peacebuilding endeavours. In this context, we believe that both the Security Council and the General Assembly should take greater advantage of the work of the Peacebuilding Commission.

The Security Council should furthermore promote greater integration, coherence and partnerships among the activities of UN missions, the UN system, and non-UN actors, including relevant regional and sub-regional organizations such as the AU, the EU, the OSCE, ECOWAS, and others.

These partnerships are truly essential. We have seen it also when partnering with the UN, the AU and the EU as regards the organization of the First Africa Forum on Security Sector Reform in November 2014. We are committed to actively promote even closer partnership between the UN and the OSCE during Slovakia's Chairmanship-in-Office of the OSCE in 2019.

Last but not least, the Security Council should enhance its preventive and mitigating role. Preventing conflict is one of its most significant responsibilities under the UN Charter. As has been discussed by this Council before, there are opportunities to sharpen and expand its preventive capacities. There is a need for deeper integration and coordination of preventive endeavors, including among the relevant components of the UN system.

Mr. President,

The important role of security sector reform (SSR) in sustaining peace is clearly reflected in Security Council Resolution 2151 (2014). The Group of friends of SSR is preparing a High-Level Roundtable that is proposed to take place on 23 April 2018 and will seek to build on the important insights from previous events, as well as on relevant policy and research, which has been developed recently in the area of sustaining peace, prevention, and SSR.

If I were to highlight just 3 key areas of our focus in this regard, it would be 1, genuine national ownership; 2, effective partnerships; 3, addressing SSR and different types of related linkages primarily as a political process and avoiding a more technical approach.

Mr. President,

Whereas the primary responsibility in peace and security efforts lies within national authorities, the United Nations, and the broader international community must effectively support these activities. We have a joined responsibility to make the UN more effective and efficient in its assistance to the real and immediate needs of populations on the ground.

Thank you for your attention.