



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

REMARKS

by

H. E. Mr. Michal Mlynár

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

at the

Virtual Security Council Arria-Formula Meeting

on:

***Protecting the Peacekeeper: Suppressing the Deployment of Improvised Explosive
Devices against Peace Operations***

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-Check against delivery-

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

We appreciate the effort by Kenya and other co-hosts in organizing this important debate, which could serve as a call for common action to explore ways of reducing the impact of risks and threats of IEDs and to enhance the safety and security of peacekeepers.

Mr. Chair,

I would like to stress that the protection of our peacekeepers from use of IEDs, as part of force protection, is an area where there is a real need to strengthen mutual cooperation and coordination. The threat of IEDs in the conflicts is real and this is not a new phenomenon to us. Unfortunately, Slovakia is one of the states that lost members of its armed forces as a result of IEDs attacks (Iraq and Afghanistan).

While we recognize that there is a sufficient military expertise and experience on how to improve pre-deployment training, employ effective tactics, technics and procedures as well as new technologies, we would also like to highlight the need to focus our attention on prevention of the IEDs use and necessity to adopt measures in so-called “left of boom” space.

Counter IEDs (C IEDs) is another phenomenon that confirms the importance of the mission’s preparedness and situational awareness, closer contact with local communities and legitimate use of intelligence in peacekeeping. In cases where the population feels safe, understands and supports mandates of missions, it is much more likely to help us degrade the networks and prevent IEDs attacks.

Let me underline that besides the need for pre-deployment training of the Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs), our support for the preparation and training of national capacities in the field of C IEDs as part of the Security Sector Reform (SSR) process would also support IEDs threat mitigation. Already for many years, Slovakia has identified SSR to be one of the key elements for effective conflict prevention and successful post-conflict rebuilding and stabilization.

Mr. Chair,

In the context of our discussion I would like to stress that other international organizations offer to the UN support and cooperation in the field of C IEDs training. I would also like to mention that on the basis of the recently concluded Special UN *Committee* on Peacekeeping Operations (C34) negotiations, recommendations have been formulated concerning safety, security and partnership focused on more effective training, reduction of caveats, use of technology and intelligence in peacekeeping operations.

At the same time, it is necessary to underline that IEDs threats continues to evolve, as evidenced by the increasing use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) by militants. These new realities will require the adaptation of peacekeeping operations in response to these new threats.

Mr. Chair,

It's my pleasure to state that in Slovakia recently contributed to the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action, which was established by the General Assembly to act as an accountable, fast-track, low-cost mechanism to rid the world of the threat of landmines. Slovakia has also provided a financial contribution to the IEDs Threat Mitigation Advisory Team project as well as to the UNMAS project addressing the threat posed by explosive ordnance in Iraq.

I'm convinced that the IEDs threats can be reduced by enhancing troop and police contributing capabilities and putting mitigation measures in place. New technologies offer some solutions that will assist these efforts. However, if our efforts are to be effective, a comprehensive approach that incorporates revised policies and systems is needed in order to integrate the technologies into operations. In this context, it is of critical importance to strengthen peacekeeping personnel's safety and security and their ability to implement the mission's mandates.

I thank you.