



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement

by

H. E. Mr. Michal Mlynár

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

at the

United Nations Security Council High-Level Open Debate

on

Peacebuilding and Sustainable Peace: Diversity, State Building and the Search for Peace

**12 October 2021
New York**

Mr. President,

I would like to thank you for organizing this important high-level open debate on *Peacebuilding and Sustainable Peace: Diversity, State Building and the Search for Peace* which will provide opportunity to share insights and experiences of different actors, and how these can inform the practical pursuit of peace building and sustaining the peace.

Mr. President,

The number of conflicts and crises is on the rise and more people than ever have been forced to leave their homes due to injustice, lack of inclusivity, human rights violations, inequality, exclusion, climate change, poor management of natural resources and the absence of political settlements and capable institutions.

Slovakia attaches great importance to a comprehensive approach to sustaining peace, particularly through the prevention of conflict and addressing its root causes, national reconciliation and unity including through inclusive dialogue and mediation, gender equality and respect for, and protection of, human rights and fundamental freedoms.

It is important to underline the primary responsibility of national governments and authorities in identifying, driving and directing priorities, strategies and activities for sustaining peace, and in this regard, emphasize that inclusivity is key to advancing national peacebuilding processes and objectives in order to ensure that the needs of all segments of society are taken into account.

Therefore, a critical determinant of success is fostering inclusive national ownership. For effective conflict prevention and peacebuilding, states need to be able to manage internal conflicts, whether ethnic, racial, religious, or even socioeconomic, among diverse populations. Moreover, states perceived as favoring one or some groups over others or failing to provide adequate basic services to all of their citizens can become susceptible to identity conflict.

The national responsibility to drive efforts to sustain peace must be broadly shared across all key social strata and divides. A wide spectrum of political opinions and national actors, in particular women and young people, must be heard. Early attention needs to be given to gender equality and to increasing women's voice in political, social, and economic development in fragile and post-conflict settings.

Mr. President,

Slovakia is convinced that the security sector is a key component in government response to various challenges in fragile countries and regions. For years Slovakia has identified SSG/R to be one of the key elements for effective conflict prevention and successful post-conflict rebuilding and stabilization. The direct experience from many countries clearly shows that a nationally-led and inclusive SSG/R is a key to developing security sector institutions that are capable of effectively responding to the specific security needs and can actively manage drivers of fragility. In this context, we need to accord priority support to broadening inclusion and diversity so that peacebuilding processes are nationally owned in the fullest sense.

Mr. President,

We have to reaffirm our collective commitment to addressing the root causes of conflict, fragility, and violence and to creating clear pathways out of fragility and towards greater resilience, as a means of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this context, it is important to mention the Sustainable Development Goals and their role in accelerating progress in this area. Sustainable Development Goal 16 clearly indicates the important role that state institutions can play in peacefully managing diversity. With regard to building states' capacities and legitimacy to manage challenges in diverse societies, the main aspirations of this goal – promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels - are of utmost importance.

Mr. President,

I thank you.