



PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**STATEMENT**

by

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

**Open debate of the Security Council**

on

**Peace and Security in Africa: Capacity-building for sustaining peace**

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**-Check against delivery-**

Mr. President

Let me thank you for convening a discussion on this subject. I would also like to thank the briefers for their insightful remarks.

We welcome this discussion and regard its high urgency. Sustaining peace means breaking the vicious cycle of violent conflict and preventing conflict while at the same time, building peace.

Mr. President, we believe that sustaining peace in Africa is a challenge that needs to be addressed in a holistic way. Already for many years, 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 our capacity as a co-chair of the Group of Friends of SSR, we are proud to recall the successful realization of the 2 events, in 2014 and 2018 respectively, which were focused on the AU policy framework for the SSR in the context of the UN. Under the auspices of the UN, AU, EU and Slovakia, these events provided much needed platform to frame the discussion on different aspects of policy frameworks towards the SSR processes.

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. Slovakia underscores the importance of women's and youth's equal and effective participation and full involvement in all stages of the SSR process. Gender-sensitive SSR is therefore key to developing security sector institutions that are non-discriminatory, representative of the population and capable of effectively responding to the specific security needs of diverse groups.

International support to SSR processes have has to be coherent and aligned with the actual needs and priorities of the country concerned, context-specific and adjusted to local needs and realities. National ownership although, which is regarded as an overarching guiding principle of SSR process, is directly linked to effective capacity building and training. These play a crucial role in building resilient institutions that are fundamental pillars of peaceful societies and key to withstanding future global shocks.

People centered SSR can further engender legitimacy by creating trust between the communities and newly established or strengthened democratic institutions, thereby contributing to the conditions necessary for sustainable peace. As mentioned previously, Slovakia affirms that SSR should incorporate principles of good governance, and professional, effective management of public resources, the rule of law and respect for human rights.

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 so-called spoilers disrupt delicate peace processes.

Following the adoption of the Security Council resolution 2553(2020), it is now widely acknowledged that reform of the security sector, particularly in conflict-affected societies, creates an environment conducive to political and socio-economic growth.

Within this context I would like to applaud SGs new and ambitious report on “Strengthening security sector reform”. Among many invaluable insights it has provided us with the possibility of a fresh and bold new vision on SSR and governance, which considers a number of important existing global agendas, such as Our Common Agenda, WPS, YPS or sustainable development, recognizes impact areas and highlights important priorities for collective action.

Interestingly, as one of its four priorities, the Report points to the role of SSR not only in sustaining peace, but also facilitating sustainable development. It also offers a crucial observation of interlinkage of the SSR and 2030 Agenda and views them as mutually reinforcing frameworks. These notions serve as yet another complementary proofs of the invaluable nature of an effective SSR process.

Mr. President, on top of every crisis in the region, we are witnessing a crisis of rising food and energy prices, which has been exacerbated by the Russian illegal and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine, which has prevented the export of grain and other essential food staples, causing price hikes that hit Africa particularly hard. In this context, we welcome the UN and Türkiye brokered Black Sea Grain Initiative,

In closing, Mr. President, let me reassure you of Slovakia’s continuous commitment to the SGs leadership in this domain, including the A4P+ initiative, which has provided a framework for our response and a roadmap for our collective efforts.

I thank you.