



S L O V A K I A

STATEMENT

by

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Open Debate of the United Nations Security Council

**Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Development and the root
causes of conflict**

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(Check against delivery)

Mr. President, Excellencies, distinguished members of the Security Council,

I thank you Mr. President for taking the initiative to convene today's open debate focusing on the correlation between the maintenance of peace and security and development through promotion of peaceful societies. I also wish to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon; Ambassador Skoog, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the UN; and Mrs. Bouchamaoui for their respective briefings.

While aligning with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the European Union, I would like to make the following observations in the national capacity.

Mr. President,

No one questions anymore the importance of security for development and the role that development plays for preventing conflicts. The 2030 Agenda presents a unique opportunity to create a continuum between the support to peaceful, inclusive and safe societies and development efforts. The inclusion of Goal 16 and its related targets to the post-2015 development agenda reflects the growing recognition of the importance of peace, safety and good governance to the traditional development paradigm.

As was outlined in the concept note for this debate, we fully support the need to understand more deeply the shared objectives that cut across the security-development spectrum and which require joined up action in both the security and development areas. It is our opinion that support to SSR presents one of those shared objectives that link the security and development spectrums.

Slovakia and South Africa, as co-chairs of the Group of Friends of SSR, organized a high level side-event on the margins of the General Debate this year to discuss the linkages of the post-2015 agenda and SSR, and in particular the impact that the adoption of goal 16 will have on SSR. We have shared the outcome and recommendations of that meeting with the Secretary-General for distribution to the Membership.

My delegation also welcomed the holding of the recent Security Council meeting (20 August 2015), under the presidency of Nigeria that focused on the further implementation of resolution 2151 and the role of the Council. Drawing on the resolution itself as well as on the outcomes of these important events we would like to put forward three key points and recommendations:

First: Successful SSR will allow for the transition from instability and repeated cycles of violence to a path of stability, institutional development and maturity. As outlined by the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (HIPPO) still more has to be done to support more effectively and consistently political strategies that will support the emergence of a nationally owned vision and full commitment for reforms that address the source of conflict.

Security forces that are built on narrow ethnic and political alliances, and which operate outside the control of civilian authorities remain a pervasive challenge, and pose a major threat to civilians and whole communities. These are issues that the peace and security architecture, and in particular the Council, can address to make possible the intervention by the development community.

Secondly: To solidify commitment to SSR, development partners need to be ready to support targeted capacity building for institutions and training for security forces, including enhancing their understanding of human rights norms and obligations and gender-related issues among others. Also, support to the reintegration of former combatants is a huge challenge and currently remains a gap area from which development partners have withdrawn over the past years.

Thirdly: We know that partners provide the bulk of training to security forces. In this regard we welcome the progress made in strengthening the partnerships with the AU and EU on SSR. Going forward we should ensure that the Council is more closely engaged and understands when concerted action is needed to support partnership and coherence beyond the United Nations. South Sudan, the Central African Republic and Mali are points in case. Too often we have gone ahead with building up capacities and institutions without the political strategy underpinning those initiatives. In the area of SSR this can have abysmal consequences for the safety of people and communities.

Mr. President,

Finally, I would like to commend the work of the UN SSR task force that brings together the Security and development arms of the Organization to develop coherent UN strategies on SSR. However as concluded during the HL event held in October in New York, in the area of SSR the work of regional partners plays an important role. Therefore, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovakia, Mr. Lajčák recommended that the work of the Inter-Agency SSR Task Force (IASSRTF) be strengthened and complimented through an International Delivery Network on SSR.

I thank you for your attention.