



**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 Open Debate**

**on**

***Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: Investment in people to enhance resilience against  
complex challenges***

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New York**

Mr. President,

I would like to thank you for organizing this important open debate which will provide opportunity to share insights and experiences of different actors, and how these can inform the practical pursuit of institution building and resilience in conflict-affected countries. Slovakia associates itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. Nevertheless, I would like to stress the following points from the national perspective.

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 the absence of political settlements and capable institutions. Weak states capacities and institutions often fail to provide basic security, services and economic opportunities and are unable to maintain citizen confidence and trust. I believe that investing in strengthening the self-organizing capacity of communities and societies, helping them to foster their social institutions and social networks will help build the resilience, adaptive capacity, and social cohesion that conflict-affected countries need to prevent or recover from conflict. In this context, it is important to underline the primary responsibility of national governments and authorities in identifying and directing priorities and strategies for sustaining peace. Inclusivity is key to advancing national peacebuilding processes in order to ensure that the needs of all segments of society are taken into account. The national responsibility to drive efforts to sustain peace must be broadly shared across all key social strata and divides.

Mr. President,

I would like to underline our continued commitment to the peacebuilding and sustaining peace agenda. Slovakia, as a member of the Peacebuilding Commission in 2020-2021, has worked closely with all the partners to enable people in fragile countries to live in peaceful, inclusive and resilient societies.

We welcome the strengthening of the PBC's advisory, bridging, and convening roles in support of nationally owned priorities and efforts in the countries and regions that seek its support. It is

important that the PBC further serves as a multi-stakeholder platform for governments and local actors to share their perspectives on peacebuilding priorities. Assessing the impact of peacebuilding support on country-specific issues can only be done in dialogue with the countries in question. A wide spectrum of political opinions and national actors, in particular women, young people and civil society representatives, must be heard. The PBC should continue inviting these actors to meetings, to listen to their recommendations, and to continue translating their advice into policy and action.

Mr. President,

Slovakia is convinced that the security sector is a key component in government response to various challenges in fragile countries and regions. 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. Let me assure you that Slovakia as a Co-chair of the Group of Friends on SSR stands ready to provide continued support and commitment to the UN Security Sector Reform agenda. In January this year we organized an Ambassadorial-Level Group of Friends meeting on the latest developments regarding the position and contribution of the SSR agenda. In this context, we are already looking forward to the UN Security Council meeting on the SSG/R that will take place in March 2023.

Mr. President,

I believe that the UN Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace is an opportunity to advance a comprehensive and integrated approach to prevention, peace and security, as proposed in Our Common Agenda report. It is critical that all relevant UN bodies and organs take part in further discussions on how to advance and intensify our collective work to enhance resilience against complex challenges related to peacebuilding and sustaining peace. In this regard, the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels are of utmost importance.

Mr. President,

I thank you.