

## Adoption of African Union Policy Framework on SSR

On 28 January, the African Union (AU) Assembly of Heads of State and Government adopted the first ever continental Policy Framework on Security Sector Reform (SSR). The Policy Framework was developed by the AU Commission with drafting and technical support from the SSR Unit and the African Security Sector Network (ASSN). The adoption of the Policy Framework represents a vital step forward in the definition and promulgation of African-led approaches to SSR.

The success and sustainability of the Policy Framework will in large part depend on the degree to which the AU Commission has the capacity to implement it. The AU Commission, the SSR Unit and the European Union (EU) have therefore designed a US\$2.4 million multi-year, multi-donor programme aiming at building AU capacities on SSR. The majority of the funding is provided by the EU. The programme will be implemented with support from the United Nations (UN) Office to the AU (UNOAU), the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and ASSN.

The programme aims to develop practical guidance and policy tools to translate the AU Policy Framework into concrete action; to facilitate joint AU-UN-EU assessment missions to enhance coordination in support of national SSR efforts; to rapidly deploy experts to meet immediate requests for SSR assistance on the continent; to develop a common understanding of SSR among AU Member States and regional economic communities; and to build the capacities of the AU

Commission to provide consistent and sustainable SSR support.

While the programme will officially be launched in Addis Ababa later this spring, key activities are already underway. In January, a team from the SSR Unit and UNOPS deployed to Addis Ababa to work with colleagues from UNOAU, the EU and ASSN to assist the AU Commission in starting-up the programme. An expert from the UN Roster of SSR Experts will also soon be deployed to Comoros at the request of the AU and in the context of this capacity-building programme.

The AU Policy Framework on SSR and the capacity-building programme are major steps in fostering African ownership of current SSR activities and lending an African character to prevailing SSR approaches in peacekeeping, post-conflict reconstruction and peace-building contexts.



*Participants from the SSR Unit, UNOAU, the EU and ASSN during their meeting in Addis Ababa.*

## Spotlight on a Mission: UNSMIL

*This column seeks to provide the reader with a firsthand account from our Missions – an article about the field, by the field. This report was written by the Security Sector Advisory and Coordination Division of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL).*

Despite the significant progress to democratic institutions made in Libya since the revolution in 2011, the security situation remains precarious and continues to be the predominant concern for the Libyan Government and its people. Central to Libya's ability to address its security challenges is the need to implement sustainable SSR in order to develop an effective and accountable national security sector with transparent democratic management and oversight.

In order to ensure coherent UN support to Libyan-led security sector efforts, a "one-UN" approach has been applied and a security sector support architecture established, based on lessons identified from over 15 peace operations mandated to support national SSR efforts over the past six years. This approach is being spearheaded by UNSMIL's Security Sector Advisory and Coordination Division (SSACD), in collaboration with the UN Country Team (UNCT) through the UNSMIL-UNCT Security Sector Working Group and its Integrated Strategic Framework, and with significant support from the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) through its Libya Working Group.

The SSACD provides integrated strategic and technical advice and coordination support to Libyan security sector efforts across six functional areas: security sector architecture and coordination; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR); arms and ammunition management; border security and management; defence reform and development; and police reform and development.

In addressing these areas, SSACD works closely with UNSMIL's other pillars, particularly the Political Affairs Division and the Human Rights, Women's Empowerment, Transitional Justice and Rule of Law Division. To assist Libya in coordinating offers of international assistance, UNSMIL has established international coordination mechanisms, and is transitioning their leadership to the Libyan Government as it becomes more established.

UNSMIL recently supported the Libyan Government in developing its first Security, Justice and Rule of Law Development Plan, which the Government of Libya presented at an International Ministerial Conference in Paris on 12 February 2013. The plan represents the Government's first attempt since the revolution to articulate a comprehensive list of priorities for SSR. At the same time, UNSMIL has continued to support the Government's efforts to establish a number of critical national coordination mechanisms, including a national security committee of Cabinet, and to promote efforts to strengthen the capacity of the General National Congress security committees to undertake their security sector oversight responsibilities.

Libya's DDR priorities agreed in Paris provided the means to reinvigorate the process of integrating a number of revolutionary fighters into the security forces, and reintegrating the vast majority of them into civilian life. In coordination with the AU, UNSMIL will soon assist the Libyans in a series of workshops to advance the implementation of their DDR priorities. UNSMIL has recently enhanced its support to Libya in this area. Using Libya's border priorities from the Paris Conference, and in cooperation with the EU, SSACD is supporting the

Libyan Government to organise its first "whole-of-Government" workshop on border security and management in April. The aim is to develop a roadmap that outlines immediate priorities, responsibilities and timelines for implementation.

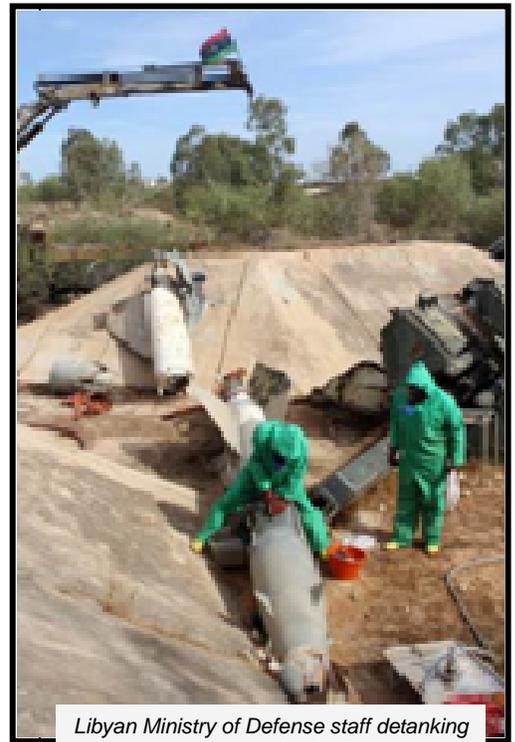
In terms of unsecured armaments, explosive remnants of war (ERW), and weapons (including small arms, light and chemical weapons, and materiel threatening national and regional security), Libyan counterparts, together with UN and other international partners, have continued clearance operations, improved the security and safe storage of arms and ammunitions through community-based micro projects, and commenced discussions on the registration of weapons.

Defence sector reform (DSR) remains a significant challenge, with considerable impact on DDR, border security and arms and ammunition management. Despite the fledgling state of the Ministry of Defence and the Libyan Armed Forces, considerable changes have already been made. UNSMIL, in collaboration with the Libyan authorities and in liaison with the international community, continues to support the development of Libya's strategic vision through the Towards a Defence White Paper project.

This process aims to lay the groundwork for an actual Libyan defence white paper by identifying key elements and priorities in Libya's defence sector. At Libya's request, UNSMIL is part-way through a project bringing a number of embedded consultant experts to work in the areas of military education and

training, personnel and pension reform, defence legislation and regulations, and communications strategies.

Significant improvements are underway in the Ministry of Interior (MoI) and the Libyan Police Service, but considerable reform and development lie ahead.



*Libyan Ministry of Defense staff detanking surface-to-air missiles.*

SSACD continues to assist in a number of police reform initiatives, including in the areas of criminal investigation, forensics, anti-narcotics, public order and training. Most importantly, UNSMIL will continue to encourage and assist the MoI to embrace institutional reform. In this regard, UNSMIL is supporting the MoI to conduct a series of workshops to advance the police priorities agreed at the Paris Conference.

Libya has begun its journey toward an effective and democratically accountable security sector capable of providing enhanced security for both the State and its people. The country is making discernible progress with the support of the UN and other international partners, but much work lies ahead.

## Geneva Launch of SSR Guidance

On 5 and 6 March, over 80 representatives of the UN family, the diplomatic community and civil society came together for the Geneva launch of the UN SSR Integrated Technical Guidance Notes (ITGNs). The high-level events were hosted by Slovakia, the UN Office at Geneva (UNOG) and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces. The events provided room for a critical



*The threat of ERWs in Libya is a key concern for the Government and the UN.*



*Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Director-General of UNOG at the opening ceremony.*

## Peacekeeping and Human Rights Conference

The SSR Unit was invited to the tenth annual conference held from 17 to 19 January and hosted by the Northwestern University in Chicago. During the three-day conference, delegates explored the political, economic, and

social forces behind international peacekeeping in an endeavour to understand the complexities behind international and local efforts to both build and sustain peace in areas of conflict.

Mr. Murray McCullough from the SSR Unit spoke on the panel "Beyond Enforcing the Peace: The Role of Troops in Reconstruction". This allowed an opportunity to highlight the UN Policy on DSR where blue helmets are now expected in part to engage in host nation institution building. "Our mission is moulded by the Security Council mandate, but in all cases our role is to 'assist' not 'substitute' the host nation", he said.

## Advanced Training on SSR in Sarajevo

From 18 to 21 February, the SSR Unit co-delivered for the first time the innovative Advanced Training on SSR, developed by the Geneva-based International Security Sector Advisory Team (ISSAT), and conducted at the Peace Support Operations Training Centre (PSOTC) in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), with the financial support of Switzerland and Norway. The Advanced Training on SSR aimed to solidify and build on the skills and knowledge acquired during the introductory training on SSR undertaken six months earlier.

Participants came from military and civilian staff from PSOTC, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Ministries of Defence of BiH, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia,

assessment of challenges in UN field missions and frank discussion on the way forward in the area of SSR.

Opening the events, UNOG Director-General, Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, emphasized the critical importance of SSR in helping fragile countries through delicate post-conflict transitions. "Where the security sector has, in many contexts, been part of the problem, we need to make it part of the solution through reform", he said.

State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, Mr. Peter Burian, and Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions, Mr. Dmitry Titov, delivered keynote addresses and focused on how to translate the ITGNs into practical actions on the ground.

Mr. Titov underscored that "SSR has become an increasingly important component of UN peace operations and is now mainstreamed as a core element of conflict prevention, peacebuilding and development." Both Mr. Titov and Mr. Burian highlighted the need for a strategic approach to ensure national ownership and necessary democratic governance. During the experts-level seminar, participants discussed three main themes: 1) reflecting on the implementation of the 2008 Secretary-General's report on SSR; 2) learning from the regional dimension of UN support to SSR; and 3) adapting UN support to emerging SSR trends.

the Ministry of Security of BiH, the Sarajevo-based non-governmental organization Centre for Security Studies and German and British military advisers. Many participants may be deployed in the future as SSR advisers in peacekeeping operations.

The training included sessions and practical exercises on the skills needed to be an effective SSR adviser. The advanced training was followed by an introduction to the skills and methods commonly used for delivering training on SSR with the aim of building the capacity of the participants in being trainers themselves.

## SSR Unit Support Visit to Côte d'Ivoire

Since the publication of our article "Spotlight on a Mission: SSR in Côte d'Ivoire" in edition 15 of the SSR Newsletter, progress has been made in the area of SSR in Côte d'Ivoire. The National SSR Strategy was endorsed by the National Security Council in September 2012. The strategy assumes a holistic approach to SSR and identifies over 100 activities that will take place over four periods (6 months, 12 months, 5 years and 10 years).

A Secretariat within that National Security Council, including a consultative group comprising international partners, has been established and is charged with the task of monitoring the implementation of the SSR strategy. Within the context of the SSR process, the Ministry of Interior has already established a strategic document for the reform of the police, based on an audit conducted in August 2011. The Ministry of Defence is elaborating a Defence Policy. A 2012-2015 National Justice Sector Reform Strategy was adopted. The creation of a joint centre for the coordination of operational decisions to address security threats in Abidjan and surroundings is an additional measure aimed at enhancing the coherence and effectiveness of the Ivorian security forces.

These developments are important steps forward. However, it will now be essential for the Government to build on this momentum and expedite the implementation of the SSR strategy. In addition, a number of key challenges remain, including: a lack of clarity on the roles and responsibilities of the Republican Forces of Côte d'Ivoire (Forces Républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire, FRCI), the gendarmerie and the police; mistrust between and within the security forces due to continued politicization; challenges in effectively unifying the country's two former armies; lack of training and discipline; the alleged involvement of security forces in human rights violations and exactions; and the absence of a clear communications strategy.

In light of this progress and remaining challenges, in early February, the SSR Unit deployed a staff member to the UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) for six weeks to support the ongoing efforts of the Mission's SSR Division to refine the UN strategic SSR priorities. Those priorities may include: encouraging the implementation of the National SSR Strategy; supporting the Government to strengthen democratic oversight of the security forces; helping to build confidence within and between the security forces and the population; and creating an environment conducive to the reform of the FRCI.



Newly-added Roster experts with the SSR Unit in Geneva.

The SSR Unit also worked closely with UNOCI's SSR Division to help launch the second of three Peacebuilding Fund projects in close coordination with the Peacebuilding Support Office and the Civilian Capacities Team. The project will focus on enhancing south-south knowledge and experience exchange for Ivorian stakeholders, drawing on expertise from other African countries.

## Induction Workshop for SSR Experts in Geneva

From 25 to 27 March, a three-day induction workshop for UN Roster SSR Experts was held in Geneva. Now counting 50 specialists, the Roster covers a wide range of expertise, experience and language skills to better respond to requests from Member States and UN colleagues.

The new experts include former chiefs of defence staff, national security coordinators, UN Force Commanders and experts with specialist knowledge in different areas of SSR. The induction workshop, the third of its kind since 2009, provided an opportunity to familiarize the new experts with the UN approach to SSR, create a network among them and explore their complementarities in light of potential future assignments. The SSR Unit manages the UN Roster of SSR Experts in the framework of the Inter-Agency SSR Task Force, making this resource available to all United Nations Member States and entities.

## Rule of Law Conference in Haiti

On 21 and 22 February, the SSR Unit participated in a national conference on the UN Rule of Law Indicators Project in Haiti. The objective of the conference, which brought together approximately 80 representatives of the Government of Haiti, the UN and international

partners, was to present the findings of a study undertaken in 2011 to measure the effectiveness, accountability and transparency of Haitian security and justice institutions.

This study comprised more than 130 qualitative and quantitative indicators to establish a snapshot of strengths and weaknesses within the rule of law sector. In order to encourage the Government to identify appropriate actions to address the outstanding challenges in the sector, the report, while offering a number of key findings, did not include any recommendations.

The conference served as a useful platform for the Ministry of Justice to engage in a dialogue with the senior leadership of various law enforcement institutions, the UN and partners to articulate recommendations to enhance current reform efforts and strengthen justice and security institutions.

Developed by the Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Service and the Police Division of DPKO, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) with support from several donors, the UN Rule of Law Indicators is a non-ranking instrument used at the request of the host country to obtain information regarding law enforcement agencies, the judicial system and the prison system, and the transformation of these institutions over time. To date, the tool has been implemented in Haiti, Liberia and South Sudan, supported by DPKO and OHCHR.

## Coming Soon...

- **SSR lessons from Brazil:** SSR Unit and Brazilian officials and practitioners will exchange lessons and best practices on SSR in Brasília and Porto Alegre from 15 to 18 April.
- **Field visits:** the SSR Unit is expected to travel to the field in support of UNMISS, UNSMIL MONUSCO, UNMIL and of the planning for an eventual future peacekeeping operation in Mali.

In support of national efforts, the SSR Unit brings together multi-disciplined specialists providing a UN focal point and a technical resource for the UN system as well as for national and international partners. Contact us at [ssr@un.org](mailto:ssr@un.org).