

Landmark resolution on security sector reform

On Monday 28 April, the Security Council unanimously adopted its first stand-alone resolution on security sector reform (SSR). During the day-long Open Debate, forty Member States spoke on challenges and opportunities of SSR, including the five permanent members of the Security Council. 41 Member States co-sponsored the resolution. The debate was presided over by Aminu Wali, Foreign Minister of Nigeria, which held the Council Presidency for the month of April.

Opening the debate,

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that “security institutions are the core of the compact between the State and its citizens. The legitimate authority to use force comes with a corresponding responsibility to protect and respect human rights.” Mr. Ban also stressed that “a professional and accountable security sector under the framework of the Rule of Law can strengthen public confidence in the State and provide the stability necessary for peacebuilding and development.”

The adoption of resolution 2151 comes at a timely moment as there has been a steady increase in demand for SSR support: since 2008, the number of Security Council resolutions referencing SSR has risen

from 14 to 37; peacekeeping operations supporting SSR have grown from 3 to 13; and the number of SSR personnel in the field has increased from 22 to 150.

The resolution reiterates the centrality of national ownership of SSR processes and identifies four essential elements in this regard: inclusive national vision, coordination of implementation, dedication of

efforts. While recognizing that the UN often has a comparative advantage in providing sector-wide support, the Security Council also notes the need to further enhance the understanding of this approach among UN senior staff. In particular, the resolution requests the development of additional guidance for UN officials, including Special Representatives of the Secretary-General and Envoys.

Third, reflecting the growing awareness that SSR needs to be in support of, and informed by broader national political processes, the resolution recognizes the strategic value of SSR and requests that the Secretary-General’s Special Representatives and Envoys fully take into account SSR in

their work, including through their good offices role.

Finally, recognizing the increasing complexity of SSR mandates and the growing gap between mandates and existing UN SSR capacities, the resolution emphasizes the need to match expectations with necessary resources.

Despite the significant progress achieved since SSR was first introduced onto the Security Council’s agenda seven years ago, the Secretary-General reminded Member States that “much remains to be done”. This landmark resolution has truly given direction to the journey ahead.



Security Council unanimously adopting the first resolution on security sector reform.

national resources, and monitoring and evaluation of SSR processes. In order to better support the operationalization of the concept of national ownership, the resolution recognizes the importance of considering the perspectives of host countries in the formulation of United Nations (UN) mission mandates.

Second, the resolution acknowledges that support for the reform of individual components of the security sector, including defence, police, and corrections, must be accompanied by sector-wide initiatives that aim to enhance the governance and overall performance of all security institutions. The resolution also emphasizes the need to ensure effective integration between such

Spotlight on a Mission: MINUSMA

Since the establishment of UN Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and the restoration of constitutional order with the holding of presidential and legislative elections in Mali at the end of 2013, concerted efforts have been made by the UN and the Malian Government to advance the SSR agenda.

On 30 December 2013, the Minister of National Security presided over the official launching of the Multidisciplinary Working Group on Security Sector Reform (GPRSS), which was tasked to develop elements of a national vision for the SSR process, make recommendations on implementation and co-ordination mechanisms, as well as structures for the reform at national and sector levels, and potential international funding partners.

The GPRSS first met on 6 January 2014. It adopted its terms of reference and established three sub-working groups. These groups meet regularly and presented their progress reports during the sixth plenary session of the GPRSS, which was chaired by the Secretary General of the Minister of National Security on 5 March.

On 19 March, the seventh plenary meeting on SSR was held at the Ministry of Security to review the proposals and recommendations to move ahead. The group presentations focused on the national vision of the SSR process, co-ordination mechanisms and resource mobilization to sustain and support the SSR process. The meeting concluded with commitment by the chairperson to conduct a sensitization campaign at the national level to inform people about the SSR process.

A final report is being compiled and will be debated at a national convention on security, which is due to take place within the next few months. In addition to reviewing and validating the vision, the purpose of the convention will be to examine the design process and resource mobilization elements for the official launching of SSR in Mali. Implementation of the national strategy will then be the main challenge ahead.

Support provided by the United Nations and other International Partners

The SSR Section has continued to provide technical support to the GPRSS, including chairing of the second sub-working group on the SSR process and structures, as well as providing strategic advice to the

The SSR component of MINUSMA has also developed a Small Arms and Light Weapons Counter-Proliferation Programme (SALW-CPP), which will focus on providing practical, field-based technical support to the Malian Defence and Security Forces in the areas of weapons technical intelligence, interdiction and border strengthening through policy development, training activities and material support.

In terms of broader support including the justice and security sectors, progress is being made thanks to the efforts of national authorities in close collaboration with MINUSMA, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the European Union as well as other partners which provide technical as well as financial assistance. For instance, at the regional levels, Gao and Timbuktu Higher Instance Tribunals and prisons were re-opened in February. This represents a major step towards lesser impunity and greater stabilization in the northern regions of Mali.



Simulation exercise conducted by Malian National Police officers in Bamako as part of their graduation of a UN-provided training course.

national authorities and international partners, putting the focus on national ownership.

In addition, efforts were made to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement agencies notably on human rights and protection of civilians, with training provided to 2,992 members of various law enforcement agencies, notably the Public Order Police, Judicial Police, Gendarmerie and the National Guards on issues such as electoral security, public order, community policing, police ethics, Train-of-Trainer and sexual and gender-based violence.

Strategic Review Missions to Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire

From 7-19 February, the SSR Unit participated in a Strategic Review Mission to Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire. The aim of the mission was to assess the strategic contexts to ensure that the two missions are appropriately configured to perform their core mandated political and security tasks.

With regard to the reform of the security institutions, significant progress has been achieved in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia. In both countries the perception of public security has been enhanced. However, it was noted that much more could be done at the strategic sector-wide level. Deficits in institutional integrity and in

confidence of the population in some key security institutions persist. These challenges emanate essentially from the slow pace of national reconciliation and the lack of national cohesion in both countries which converge to undermine the basis for legitimacy and accountability of security institutions.

Operational challenges, such as inadequate number of police trained, inadequate equipment and logistics, are not untypical for many West African states. Yet, the key difference in these two countries is the fragility of the social fabric, characterized by sustained deep-seated societal cleavages, related to identity, land ownership, exclusion, and governance, which undermine the legitimacy of security institutions and erode confidence in them by the public and relevant national stakeholders.

Finally, it was recommended that regional frameworks, including the ECOWAS Code of Conduct for Armed Forces and Security Services, and the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework, need to be further utilized and implemented to address the challenges in the region in a more holistic way.

Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations discussing SSR

Deliberations on the 2014 Report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations concluded on Friday, 21 March, resulting in continued strong support for SSR. Specifically, while stressing the importance of SSR for peacekeeping generally, the Committee emphasised the importance of: national ownership, SSR capacities within peacekeeping operations, United Nations assistance at a sector-wide level, which aims to strengthen national security sector governance and provision, and UN support to defence sector reform.

The Committee also continued to stress its appreciation of the SSR Unit's efforts, including as co-chair of the Secretary-General's Inter-agency

SSR Task Force at the expert's level. In particular, the Special Committee recognized the Unit's: recent production of Integrated Technical Guidance Notes on SSR; development of the UN Roster of SSR Experts; partnership building initiatives with the African Union and; training and capacity-building efforts.

Considering the increasing demands placed on the SSR Unit in respect of supporting UN missions in the field, the Special Committee re-emphasized its long-standing request for the Secretariat to explore ways to enhance the capacity of the SSR Unit. The Special Committee also recognized the Secretary-General's most recent report on SSR.

Taking stock of SSR in Guinea – Mission of the Inter-agency SSR Task Force

The UN has been supporting the SSR process in Guinea since 2008. Different UN entities were involved in regional mediation efforts, facilitating the political SSR process and providing catalytic funding and specialist technical assistance. Throughout this period, the UN Inter-agency SSR Task Force (IASSRTF) served as a mechanism for coordination and information exchange for UN entities involved in supporting the SSR process. In this context, the Task Force undertook a joint assessment mission to Guinea from 27-31 January. The mission's overall objective was to take stock of the SSR process in Guinea and to assess the support provided by the UN and international community to SSR, and to make recommendations for further assistance.

The mission was co-lead by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and UNDP, chairs of the IASSRTF, and with participation from Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Department of Political Affairs (United Nations Office for West Africa). The mission

met with a wide range of national counterparts, civil society representatives and key actors from the international community in Guinea. The mission team also met and held discussions with UN representatives on the ground.

The joint assessment was conducted on the basis of the system-wide Integrated Technical Guidance Notes on SSR that provide a common framework to guide UN support to nationally-led SSR efforts. The UN approach is based on the understanding that the establishment of an effective, professional and accountable security sector is at the cornerstone of peace and sustainable development, and that SSR is an important tool in the prevention and management of conflict. The objective of UN support to national SSR efforts is essentially to help ensure that people feel safer through the enhanced effectiveness and accountability of security institutions operating under civilian control and within a framework of the rule of law and respect for human rights.

The UN has played an important role in supporting the SSR process in Guinea. One of the key achievements was the set-up of a visible and defined structure for national coordination, policy and decision-making for SSR. Significant progress has been made in sector-wide initiatives improving the security sector architecture, national ownership, coordination and financing. Counterparts and partners recognized the importance of the UN's role in supporting a comprehensive nationally-owned SSR process. The configuration of political, programmatic and funding support has proven effective in maintaining a national focus on SSR.

At the same time, there are a number of areas where reflection, reorientation and enhanced focus is required in order to maintain and enhance the UN's impact in the next phase of SSR support. The continued engagement of the SSR Task Force will be important to ensure coordinated support to developments on the ground.

The SSR Unit and UNDP presented the outcome of the mission at an informal meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission's Guinea configuration on 16 April.

To know more about the Inter-agency SSR Task Force:

<http://unssr.unlb.org/>

E-learning on Defence Sector Reform

On 20 February 2014, the first UN E-learning course on Defence Sector Reform (DSR) was launched at an event organized by the Permanent Missions of Denmark, Malaysia, Kenya and the Netherlands. The event was supported by the SSR Unit, the Policy and Doctrine Team of the Office of Military Affairs and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Office in New York. Approximately 40 representatives at the expert-level participated.

The initiative is a step forward in developing the necessary normative framework for UN support to DSR, as envisaged in the UN Policy on DSR. Member States welcomed the initiative and expressed satisfaction with the user-friendly platform, which builds on the same methodology and pedagogical principles as the Basic and Advanced Security Training by the Department of Safety and Security.

The course presents different scenarios and offers a quiz after each of the four modules to validate the trainees' knowledge on DSR. The online infrastructure has been developed by UNITAR and the course will be available on their website. Efforts are underway to publish it on relevant UN websites, and to include it in the induction package offered to

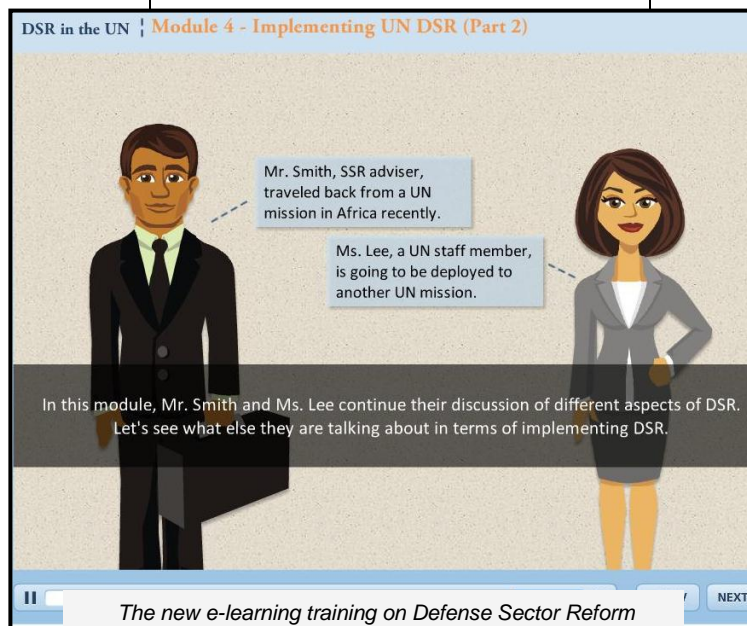
new DSR and SSR staff in the field and at the Headquarters. The link can be shared with regional peacekeeping training centres and interested Member States as well.

Assessing the future UN engagement in Haiti

From 15-22 January, the SSR Unit participated in a Mission Capability Study to Haiti. The objective of the assessment was to analyze the possible configurations and options for the UN engagement in Haiti post-

offices, continued strengthening of the rule of law through security sector and legislative reforms and the promotion and protection of human rights.

The recommendations contained in the Mission Capability Study informed the most recent Report of the Secretary-General (S/2014/162) which concluded that "the future United Nations presence in Haiti should ensure, through a more tailored mandate and a lighter footprint, the consolidation of gains in security and capacity building achieved since the deployment of MINUSTAH while still being able to complement possible operational shortfalls in security."



The new e-learning training on Defense Sector Reform developed by UNITAR.

2016. The DPKO-led team deployed in response to the request by the Security Council, in its resolution 2119 (2013) and met with components of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), representatives of the UN Country Team and national interlocutors.

The team identified the political and peacekeeping functions that are likely to remain relevant beyond 2016, including continued support for the development of the Haitian National Police, consolidation of political stabilization gains through good

on Security Sector Governance and Reform.

Coming Soon...

- From 11-17 May, the SSR Unit will participate in the civilian-military exercise 'Reliable Sword' in the Netherlands.
- From 21-23 May, the SSR Unit will deliver a training course on the Integrated Technical Guidance Notes on SSR for UNOCI staff.
- A joint UN-OSCE conference will be held in July on strengthening OSCE-UN collaboration

About the SSR Newsletter

The SSR Newsletter, published on a quarterly basis, is aimed at providing an update on recent activities of the SSR Unit and an overview of upcoming initiatives, in addition to sharing relevant information and announcements with the greater SSR community.

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.