

Member states discuss Second Secretary-General's report on SSR

On 4 November in New York, United Nations (UN) Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson urged greater national ownership and more funding towards security sector reform (SSR) as part of an effort to strengthen the links between peace and security, development, and human rights.

“Security sector reform has become central to the work of the United Nations in reducing violence, addressing transnational organized crime, promoting human rights and contributing to overall

stability,” said Mr. Eliasson, addressing the high-level open meeting of the UN Group of Friends of Security Sector Reform in New York.

In his speech, the Deputy UN chief highlighted Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s latest report (A/69/970-S/2013/480) on the topic, saying that security sector reform is focused on “making people’s lives safer”.

More than 120 representatives from over 80 Member States came

together to reflect on how to move forward with the implementation of its key recommendations. Speeches were also delivered by the Slovakian Deputy Prime Minister, and by the Permanent Representative of South Africa, the two countries co-chairing the Group of Friends of SSR.

On behalf of the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on SSR, Assistant Secretary-General Dmitry Titov outlined the key challenges and

challenges associated to national ownership support in fragile States. Speakers also recognized the importance of the strategic partnership with the African Union on SSR and encouraged further efforts to develop such partnerships with other regional and sub-regional organisations.

Spotlight on a Mission: UNSMIL's support to Defence Sector Reform

Muammar Gadhafi’s 42-year rule and the popular revolution have left the country with two major legacies, resulting in unique challenges for the transition. For over 40 years the “army” (a term used in the same way “defence forces” would be in other countries) was marginalized. Decision-making was centralised, collaboration was

discouraged and individual initiative stamped out. Apart from a handful of chosen brigades tasked with protecting the regime, army development was neglected. Training, equipment procurement and recruitment all suffered, and the army became a hollow institution with little public confidence.

After the 17 February Revolution in 2011, Libya began the task of rebuilding the army. Unfortunately, however, the Gaddafi regime had left the structure top-heavy and lacking the capability and



Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson (second from left) addresses a special event of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on SSR.

priorities for SSR in peacekeeping and peacebuilding, while the Assistant Secretary-General of UNDP, Jordan Ryan, emphasized the role of SSR for development, as well as the importance of adequately reflecting security within the post-2015 development agenda.

The report was widely commended to seek ways to operationalize national ownership, the guiding principle of security sector reform. It was noted that enhanced efforts are needed to reflect on the

experience to rebuild and manage a modern, democratically controlled force. The revolutionaries did not trust the army because of its service under the former regime and were able to exert, often by force, significant influence on political decision-making, which further strengthened their position. The continued absence of a constructive political dialogue with the revolutionaries has reduced the impact on defence sector reforms.

The Libyan people are supportive of legitimate and effective state institutions and in particular call for a strong army and police force, as well as the disbandment

of armed groups. This was demonstrated during and after the public confrontations with armed groups in Tripoli in November 2013, wherein the army presence on the streets was welcomed. This support, however, could well diminish if the army does not become an effective and accountable security provider.

The Defence Advisory Section: Strategic Solutions

In this context, UNSMIL's Defence Advisory Section (DAS) was established in 2012 within the Mission's Security Sector Advisory and Coordination Division. In line with the UN Defence Sector Reform (DSR) policy (2011), the small team of four professional officers was designed to support Libyan defence sector efforts at the strategic-political level through the provision of advice and assistance in the areas of oversight, management and coordination, as well as institutional development.

In this respect, DAS both facilitated and supported Libya's efforts to develop a strategic defence policy

through a broad and consultative process. The final document, entitled "Towards a Defence White Paper" (TDWP), was developed on behalf of the Minister of Defence and in close collaboration with national stakeholders across the

initiated an international structure for the coordination of defence sector support, which is increasingly being led by Libyans.

Given an ever more challenging national political situation, DAS has also focused its support on concrete deliverables at the operational and tactical level, aimed at introducing proper structures and developing capabilities. Notable advances have been made in training and recruiting, military law, personnel systems and logistics.

To compensate for an ambitious SSR mandate but with the limited



UNSMIL's support to defence sector reform in Libya aims to assist national efforts to identify the main risks and threats facing Libya.

country, including revolutionaries and other armed groups. Officially received by the Minister in April 2013, "TDWP" is still widely used as a development reference by Libyan authorities, although its implementation has been hampered by a high turnover in senior personnel.

Additionally, DAS has advised the Government on integration of armed groups within the Libyan army. This has included the presentation of detailed recommendations, which have been adopted almost entirely as the "key points plan" by the High Committee for Integration in the Prime Minister's Office.

As part of its strategic advisory role, DAS has also supported a range of defence development initiatives including on the army's role in Tripoli, army structures, procurement processes, promotion systems, modern teaching methods, pension reform, provision of catering and critical thinking and problem solving. Additionally, in terms of strategic assistance, DAS

resources of a Special Political Mission, DAS has drawn heavily on medium-term consultants embedded in Libya's defence organisations and worked successfully to promote collaborative international defence development assistance.

Strategic Assessment Mission to Burundi

In October 2013, a UN Strategic Assessment Mission (SAM) team was deployed to Burundi to assess the capacity of the Office of the United Nations in Burundi (BNUB) in supporting Burundi's current and future challenges, and to identify the capacity of the UN Country Team (UNCT) to gradually take over BNUB's tasks.

Following a request by the Security Council in resolution 1959 (2010), the Secretary-General presented a set of benchmarks and indicators to guide the transformation of BNUB into a UNCT presence. Against the backdrop of significant progress in

all priorities of the peace consolidation agenda, including the adoption of 'Burundi Vision 2025' and the second Poverty Reduction Strategic Paper (PRSP-II), the Government of Burundi has formally requested the UN to terminate the mandate of BNUB.

The SSR Unit took the opportunity, in collaboration with BNUB's SSR Unit, to assess the progress of the reform of the national security institutions, interacting with political, security and civil society representatives. The SAM team

The UN will continue its support to Burundi's SSR efforts, with a particular focus on the upcoming elections.

Taking Stock of the AU SSR Programme

On 17 December 2013, the SSR Unit participated in the second Steering Committee meeting of the joint UN/ European Union project: Building African Union Capacities in SSR, in Addis Ababa.

AU-led African International Support Mission to the Central African Republic (AFISM-CAR). This is the first time the AU SSR Unit has been a part of the initial civilian deployment of an AU peace support operation and the Organization plans to send an additional three SSR Officers to the joint Mission in 2014.

Among key priorities in 2014, the AU will work to complete the Operational Guidance Notes as well as conducting three joint SSR assessment missions with the UN and the EU. A dedicated training on SSR is also planned for North Africa.

SSR Support Visit to Guinea

The SSR Unit carried out a support visit to the UN SSR Advisory Team (SSR-AT) in Guinea Conakry from 26 November to 2 December 2013.

The SSR-AT was set up in response to a call for assistance from the Guinean authorities to the United Nations, to support the Guinean SSR process at the political and strategic level. Since the beginning of its activities in May 2012, the SSR-AT, which reports directly to the United Nations Office in West Africa (UNOWA), has focused on building an environment of trust and positive collaboration with the national authorities; strengthening the capacities of the main structure for SSR (*Comité National de Pilotage*); refocusing the work at the strategic level; supporting the elaboration of five sectoral policies as well as of the *Politique Nationale de Défense et de Sécurité (PNDS)*; establishing a network with international and national partners; and building a coherent strategy with the UNCT on SSR.

Despite the unstable political context, and with the support of the SSR-AT, important steps towards SSR, both at the policy and technical levels, have been taken. These include, among others, a joint ECOWAS/AU/UN evaluation of



The SSR Unit participated at the second Steering Committee of the AU Project: 'Building African Union Capacities in Security Sector Reform' together with partners from the AU, EU and the African Security Sector Network (ASSN).

noted a tangible increase in the professionalization and cohesion of the national army, mainly due to its participation in overseas peacekeeping missions (such as AMISOM, Somalia).

However, in spite of the support provided by the UN and bilateral donors, the capacity of the national police to deliver basic security remains weak due to political interference and the lack of specialization of the police units. Of particular concern is the absence of specific training of the police to manage the electoral cycle surrounding the 2015 elections, including crowd control.

Last year's milestone accomplishment of the project was the adoption of the SSR Policy Framework by the Heads of State and government at the AU Summit in January 2013. This is the first continental-wide policy on SSR and it provides a number of in-built activities that must be undertaken by the AU and its member states. To assist in its implementation, the Steering Committee urged the AU to mobilize the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as well as supportive member states to rally the necessary political support for the policy framework. The Steering Committee also welcomed the deployment of a SSR Officer from the project to join the

the Guinean security sector reform, the establishment of a National Steering Committee and SSR architecture to pilot the reform, the conduct of a biometric military census, the drafting of five sectoral policies (defense, police and civil protection, justice, customs, protection of the environment), and the finalization of the *PNDS*.

In light of the deployment of the newly appointed SSR Senior Advisor to the President, General Fernando Gutierrez, the SSR Unit's support visit focused on presenting the UN SSR framework to the SSR-AT and contextualizing the SSR process in Guinea to ensure that the team's efforts are conducted in line with the UN SSR approach.

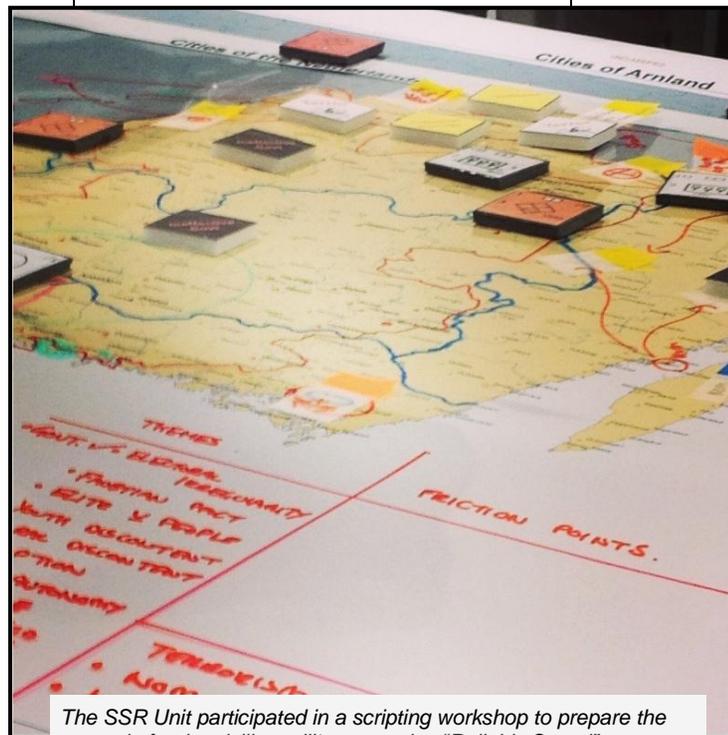
To this end, the SSR Unit desk officer for Guinea delivered a series of sensitization briefings on the UN SSR sector-wide approach, national ownership, UN support in the elaboration of national defense and security policies and resource mobilization and coordination, among others.

The SSR Unit, in coordination with other partners, will continue to support the SSR-AT in its endeavour

Responding to the crisis in "Arnland"

In May 2014, the SSR Unit will participate as training audience in the civilian-military exercise "Reliable Sword", organized by the 1 German Netherlands Corps (GNC),

based in Munster, Germany. 1GNC has spearheaded multi-level exercises with the aim to improve coordination between military and civilian expertise and entities.



The SSR Unit participated in a scripting workshop to prepare the scenario for the civilian-military exercise "Reliable Sword".

In preparation of the upcoming exercise, the SSR Unit participated last fall in a scripting workshop to prepare the scenario for the exercise, which centers on addressing a violent crisis in the fictitious country of "Arnland". The aim of the SSR element of the exercise is to train UN staff and military counterparts on the importance of engaging in SSR support at the earliest possible stage during the peace operation to prevent Arnland's descent into violence and instability.

The exercise will allow UN staff to train on the challenges creating the long-term foundations for SSR

during the early phases of a stabilization operation. At the same time, military counterparts will be sensitized to UN's approach to SSR and the need for broad engagement with national counterparts and a flexible and tailored response.

Coming Soon...

- From 15 to 22 January 2014, the SSR Unit will participate in a Mission Capability Study in Haiti to assist in developing options for a future UN engagement in Haiti.
- From 27-31 January, the Inter-Agency SSR Task Force will undertake a joint mission to Guinea

take stock of the progress of the SSR process and to assess the support by the UN and the international community.

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.