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DCAF's Support to the United Nations on Security Sector Reform

Background

The UN has been engaged in SSR for over two decades, but efforts to develop a common, coherent and coordinated approach only began with the initiative of the Republic of Slovakia to table SSR on the agenda of the UN Security Council in February 2007. As a result, both the General Assembly and Security Council emphasised the importance of developing a system-wide approach. Consequently, the Secretary-General established the UN Inter-Agency Security Sector Reform Task Force (IASSRTF) in 2007. It is co-chaired by DPKO and UNDP and seeks to facilitate a coherent system-wide approach to SSR. DPKO's SSR Unit provides the secretariat for the Task Force. In January 2008, the first Secretary-General's report on "Securing peace and development: the role of the United Nations in supporting security sector reform" was released and called for furthering the efforts in developing the UN approach to SSR. In early 2013, the ISSARTF published a set of Integrated Technical Guidance Notes on SSR. Also, in 2013, the second report of the Secretary-General entitled "Securing States and societies: strengthening the United Nations comprehensive support to security sector reform" was released. The adoption of the first-ever stand-alone Security Council resolution on SSR of 28 April 2014 marks the latest success of these efforts.

DCAF has provided significant support to developing the UN's emerging approach to SSR through policy research, advice and guidance, field assessments and capacity building, programming assistance and tailor-made expert support on specific topics. This includes the activities outlined in the following fields of activity:

- Policy Research, Advice and Guidance
- Advisory Field Support and Training
- Expert Support on Gender and SSR
- Support to UNDP's Security Governance and Rule of Law Programming

Policy Research, Advice and Guidance

In 2006, DCAF supported Slovakia in its efforts to table SSR on the Security Council's agenda by assisting in the organisation of an international expert workshop in Bratislava. In the run up to the Slovak-initiated Security Council Open Debate on SSR, DCAF contributed to the organization of two roundtable events in New York which raised awareness within the UN system on the importance of SSR, and provided the necessary input for the development of a concept paper on the UN's approach to SSR. The Open Debate in 2007 resulted in the adoption of a presidential statement.

Also in 2006, DCAF accepted a major policy research mandate from DPKO and UNDP to examine the UN approach to SSR in post-conflict peacebuilding. The study was the first attempt by UNDP and DPKO to jointly reflect on a common UN approach to SSR. It contained field research in Burundi, DRC, Haiti and Kosovo. The results fed directly into the work of the UN task force in drafting the Secretary-General's report on SSR. DCAF also provides support to an ongoing series of regional SSR workshops that started in 2007. So far, workshops took place in Cape Town (2007), Buenos Aires (2009), and Jakarta (2010).



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From 2009 until 2012, the UN Inter-Agency SSR Task Force was developing integrated technical guidance notes to support their work in the field. DCAF was mandated to support the development of four of these guidance notes, namely on democratic governance of security institutions, developing national security policies and strategies, SSR and peace processes, and gender and SSR. Furthermore, DCAF supported Slovakia as the co-chair of the Group of Friends of SSR in organizing a series of high-level and expert-level events (December 2012, New York; March 2013, Geneva; November 2013, New York) which contributed greatly towards the second Secretary-General report on SSR and culminated in its official launch during the high-level event of the Group of Friends in November 2013.

As a result of a mapping study on measuring the impact of peacekeeping missions on rule of law and security institutions conducted in 2012, DCAF has currently deployed an SSR advisor to DPKO's SSR Unit with a mandate to assist the development of monitoring and evaluation guidance for SSR in the context of UN peacekeeping missions.

Since 2003, DCAF and the UN Office at Geneva (UNOG) have engaged in hosting a series of joint annual seminars aimed at raising awareness on the complexities and challenges of SSR among the Geneva-based diplomatic community. The seminars have focused on a number of important issues over the years, including: the role of the UN in the post-conflict reconstruction of the security sector (2005); UN and regional organisations (2006); SSR and human rights (2008); the role of the UN in supporting SSR in Africa (2009); Women, Peace and Security (2010); and Privatization of Security (2011).

Advisory Field Support and Training

The UN Inter-Agency Security Sector Reform Task Force (IASSRTF) sits on the Governing Board of DCAF's International Security Sector Advisory Team (ISSAT). As a division of DCAF, ISSAT provides tailor-made assistance to reinforce the capacity of its members and in a UN context has worked with DPKO, DPA and UNDP both at headquarters and with field missions through advisory field support, training and capacity development.

Recent advisory field support includes assistance to DPKO to conduct a review of police activities within peacekeeping contexts (2011). In 2012, DCAF-ISSAT provided assistance on the Peacebuilding Fund's SSR Thematic Review, and assistance to the UNDP and EU Coordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support (EUPOL COPPS)'s workshop for the Palestinian Civil Police. Support in 2013 included the following advisory field mandates: UNSMIL's Security Sector Advisory and Coordination Office (SSADC) in its assistance to the Libyan Ministry of Defence and the Office of the Army Chief of Staff towards the development of a Defence White Paper; UNDP Somalia in its assistance to the Somali Observatory of Conflict and Violence Prevention (OCVP) and the Somaliland Police's gender responsiveness; UNMIL/UNDP to examine existing management and accountability mechanisms of the security and justice institutions. Additionally in 2014, ISSAT supported an assessment by UNODC of the Punjab provincial police.

With regard to training and capacity development, DCAF-ISSAT has supported IASSRTF and DPKO's SSR unit on numerous occasions for training to headquarters personnel and field staff and to the Africa Union. Support has also been provided for individual training requirements, including the annual meeting of senior SSR practitioners (2008-11) and the induction of UN Expert Roster personnel (2009, 2010 and 2013). More recently, DCAF-ISSAT supported UNDP, who co-chaired the OECD INCAF Secretariat's project to develop operational advice on how to improve the effectiveness of security and justice engagements through more of a "process approach" (2012). In 2013, DCAF-ISSAT has conducted a tailor-made training on integrating police reform and security sector reform for the UN Standing



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Police Capacity; a workshop for ONUCI on SSR for senior personnel in the defence sector; and co-facilitation of a Police Reform workshop run by the Libyan Ministry of Interior with support from UNSMIL.

Expert Support on Gender and SSR

DCAF regularly provides expert support to the UN on gender and SSR. The Centre has worked in this field with UNDP, UN Women and UNDPKO, as well as with the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, and the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA).

DCAF cooperates in particular with [UN Women](#), and previously its predecessor agencies, on matters related to gender and SSR. UN-INSTRAW (now part of UN Women), was a co-publisher of the [Gender and Security Sector Reform Toolkit](#). In September 2009, DCAF facilitated an SSR training workshop for 25 UNIFEM (now part of UN Women) field and headquarter staff and assisted UNIFEM in developing technical guidance on gender and SSR for the UN SSR task force. In 2010 DCAF was also one of the external agencies involved in the group of experts reviewing the proposed indicators on the implementation of UNSCR 1325. DCAF also regularly works with UN regional offices and field presences, including UNDP SEESAC, UN Women offices in Georgia and Albania, ONUCI and IOM in Sierra Leone.

Furthermore, in 2010, the UN Office in Geneva and DCAF co-organised, in the format of the annual UNOG-DCAF seminar series (see above), a high-level seminar to mark the 10th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

Support to UNDP's Security Governance and Rule of Law Programming

Between 2005 and 2013, DCAF has provided extensive support to UNDP's security governance programming in various geographical regions. Activities have focused on security governance best practices for multiple stakeholders (civil society, ombuds-institutions, democratic institutions, government, executive and security sector agencies) via the development of knowledge products and capacity development activities, with the following objectives: 1) to situate human security at the centre of development and rule of law programming (particularly on human rights and gender issues); 2) to develop local ownership of security sector challenges; and 3) to develop national and regional capacity to address security governance issues. The focus of DCAF's assistance has also included national security policy development, situating security provision – by a transparent and accountable security sector – as a public good. Overall, cooperative programming has had a special focus on the Asia-Pacific region where DCAF has facilitated, since 2008, the multi-year regional approach to security sector governance led by the UNDP Pacific Regional Centre and the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS). The Pacific Forum Regional Security Committee (FRSC) has consistently built on the process begun in 2008, with the recommendations from the DCAF-facilitated UNDP-PIFS Regional Ministerial Conference on Security Sector Governance (2009) shaping diverse policy and programming documents such as the Pacific Regional Action Plan: Women, Peace and Security 2012-2015, as well as national security policy development. A significant shift in the shared concept of security among Pacific Island countries was observed, with a move from a state-centered approach to a people-centered or human security approach, a process culminating in the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' 2012 Communiqué on the Pacific Human Security Framework (developed with the assistance of UNDP and PIFS). – In addition, DCAF has cooperated with the UNDP Parliamentary



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Development Initiative in the Arab Region, UNDP's Bratislava Regional Centre, as well as on projects in the Central African Republic.

Milestones

2003	DCAF launches a series of annual events with the UN Office in Geneva on various aspects of security sector governance.
2005-2009	DCAF and UNDP develop three handbooks on democratic governance of the security sector: Democratising Security in Transition States, Monitoring and Investigating the Security Sector, and Public Oversight of the Security Sector.
2006-2007	DCAF supports the Slovak Republic's Presidency of the UN Security Council in holding the first-ever open debate on SSR in February 2007.
2006-2009	DCAF implements two joint policy-research mandates from UN DPKO and UNDP. The first study, Security Sector Reform and UN Integrated Missions, serves as an empirical basis for the UN Secretary-General's report on SSR released in January 2008; the second study results in a module on the DDR-SSR nexus for the UN Integrated DDR Standards.
2007-2008	DCAF conducts an internal study on human rights and SSR for the UN OHCHR.
2008-2010	DCAF and UNDP conduct a comprehensive SSR needs assessment in the Pacific region and facilitate the first regional conference on the issue.
2008-2014	ISSAT undertakes over 50 mandates for various UN agencies and programmes at headquarters and in the field, including the DPA, DPKO, PBSO, and UNDP.
2009-2013	DCAF supports the development and launch of the first-ever set of UN Integrated Technical Guidance Notes for the UN Inter-Agency SSR Task force.
2011-2012	DCAF supports DPKO's OROLSI in mapping impact assessment methodologies concerning the rule of law and security institutions.
2012-2013	DCAF supports a dialogue with Member States, UN bodies, and experts on the development and launch of the second UN Secretary-General's report on SSR, released in August 2013.
2013-2014	The Head of DCAF's UN and SSR Programme is deployed to UN DPKO to support the UN Inter-Agency SSR Task Force in developing guidance on monitoring and evaluating SSR support.