

Strengthening OSCE – UN Co-operation on Security Sector Reform (SSR)

Conference Report

Joint conference, held on 7 July 2014 in Vienna, co-organised by the
OSCE and the UN and co-hosted by Slovakia and Switzerland

September 2014



Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe



About this Report

The contents of this report, while not attributed to specific individuals, reflect opinions expressed by participants of the joint conference on “Strengthening OSCE – UN Co-operation on Security Sector Reform” held on 7 July 2014 in Vienna. The comments contained in this report do not necessarily represent views of the UN, the OSCE, the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), or of any particular UN Member State or OSCE participating State. This report has been developed with the assistance of DCAF.

Foreword

It is with great pleasure that we share with you the report of the conference on *Strengthening OSCE – UN Co-operation in Security Sector Reform (SSR)*, jointly organized by the OSCE and the United Nations and co-hosted by the Governments of Switzerland and Slovakia on 7 July 2014 in Vienna, with further assistance from the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces. This first high-level conference of the United Nations with a regional organization on security sector governance and reform marked an important first step towards deepening our co-operation in this increasingly important field under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter.

Our Organizations continue to actively support host Governments in nationally-led security sector governance and reform processes in various countries. The United Nations started to initiate measures for a system-wide approach to SSR in 2007, which subsequently resulted in two reports of the UN Secretary-General, in 2008 and 2013 respectively, and the adoption of the first stand-alone United Nations Security Council resolution (2151) on security sector reform in 2014. The United Nations has also developed a set of integrated technical guidance notes to provide a common framework for Headquarters and field mission staff on the support of SSR processes under the United Nations “Delivering as One” approach. The OSCE has been engaged in SSR-related processes and field operations since its inception. It has acquired a broad normative basis dating back to the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security of 1994, which played a fundamental role in developing today’s understanding of SSR. Through its field operations, the OSCE has been providing active support in all areas of the security sector. As of this year, the OSCE executive structures have embarked on the process of establishing more coherent support to SSR and have therefore initiated the development of internal guidelines for OSCE staff.

Throughout the conference, we have successfully engaged with all participating Member States and experts on a practical exchange of best practices and lessons learned related to SSR and its current implementation. We will continue our joint efforts to foster a mutually beneficial co-operation between our Organizations and use complementary activities more efficiently.

As we have outlined future steps towards strengthened collaboration and mutual support in the field of SSR, our Organizations continue working together to advance our shared objective of making valuable contributions to the building and maintenance of effective and accountable security sectors.



Lamberto Zannier

OSCE Secretary General



Dmitry Titov

*UN Assistant Secretary-General
for Rule of Law and Security
Institutions*



“The participating States have increasingly recognised SSR as an important concept in many of the organizations’ thematic efforts involving conflict prevention, early warning and crisis management.”

Peter Burian, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic



“We firmly believe that all States should strive to increase the governance of their security sector in a manner that it provides a service to the people while fully respecting fundamental freedoms and human rights.”

Thomas Greminger, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the OSCE, the United Nations, and the International Organizations



“If the OSCE can further build on its advantages through a needs-based approach, it will not only strengthen partnerships with other international organizations such as the UN, but it will also increase the relevancy of the OSCE for participating States.”

Lamberto Zannier, OSCE Secretary General



“Beyond sharing practices, doctrine and training, the UN's operational support and engagement with the OSCE can contribute to strengthening regional building blocks, which is a major element of the UN's approach.”

Dmitry Titov, UN Assistant Secretary-General for the Rule of Law and Security Institutions

Executive Summary

Strengthening OSCE and UN co-operation on security sector reform (SSR) was the topic of the joint OSCE-UN conference that took place in Vienna on 7 July 2014. The conference was co-hosted by Switzerland and Slovakia, with the assistance of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF).

Discussions aimed at sharing experiences regarding the development of organisation-wide approaches to SSR. OSCE and UN representatives, as well as external experts, provided insights into regional co-operation between the two organisations, particularly in South East Europe and Central Asia. It was noted that SSR co-operation in the field often yields the best outcomes if it takes a flexible, transparent and pragmatic approach and is based on the active involvement and ownership of the host country.

The conference identified opportunities for future co-operation and offered good recommendations on how to further collaboration to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the two organisations. The OSCE, with its rich normative framework and broad operational experiences, can offer its expertise and comparative advantages as a regional organisation. The UN's co-operation and engagement with the OSCE can contribute to strengthening regional building blocks, which represent major elements of the UN's approach to SSR. Common priorities in external support to national SSR processes were identified and include, among others, the importance of considering national and regional contexts, and the involvement of civil society.

It was concluded that the OSCE and UN will strive to advance their co-operation on matters related to SSR, and thereby contribute to the efforts aimed at revitalising the role of regional arrangements under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter. The OSCE has initiated a process to enhance the coherence and efficiency of its support to security sector governance and reform (SSG/R), namely through the recently founded OSCE "Group of Friends of SSG/R" and the development of internal guidelines for OSCE staff of the executive structures. Both organisations reaffirmed their willingness to increase exchanges on the working level and to provide mutual support to advance co-operation.

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Summary Report

Introduction and Background

The UN has been heavily engaged in the provision of support to security sector reform (SSR) for decades. Since the first open debate of the UN Security Council on SSR under Slovak Presidency in 2007, the UN system has been working on the development of a coherent, system-wide approach to SSR. The two reports of the UN Secretary General on SSR (2008, 2013) are evidence of the acknowledgement of the importance of this issue within the UN system. The UN Inter-Agency SSR Task Force (IASSRTF), which is co-chaired by the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP), with DPKO's SSR Unit providing its secretariat, has achieved much progress in consolidating the UN's approach to SSR through support to the development of guidance, standards and practices for the UN, support to field operations and offices, the facilitation of consultations with regional organisations, and the delivery of training on SSR.

The OSCE and its participating States have increasingly recognised security sector governance and reform (SSG/R)¹ as important concepts in many of the organisation's thematic efforts, including conflict prevention, early warning and crisis management. A recent mapping study² (prepared by the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) upon the request of Switzerland in view of its OSCE Chairmanship in 2014) ascertained that the OSCE has collected a wealth of conceptual and operational experience in SSG/R. At the same time, it has not yet developed a coherent approach on the matter, which hampers the sustainability and the impact of its efforts. In accordance with the organisation's aspiration to further its position as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, the exchange of experiences with the UN on support to SSG/R is seen as increasingly relevant.

In many contexts, the OSCE field operations are providing support to a variety of SSR-related activities alongside the UN and are considered a valued partner. Despite the potential for strategic co-operation on these issues, there are no formally established mechanisms for co-operation on SSG/R. Co-operation challenges are increased considering the OSCE has not yet developed a coherent approach to SSG/R.

Slovakia, Switzerland, and Serbia support an extra-budgetary project of the OSCE Secretariat to enhance and promote SSG/R within the organisation. This project allowed for the hiring of a dedicated staff position whose aim is to co-ordinate the development of internal guidelines and to support the recently founded OSCE Group of Friends of SSG/R, which currently comprises 20 members.³

¹ In this document, SSG/R is the specific term of choice for the OSCE's approach to SSR.

² CIO.GAL/18/14

³ Slovakia (chair), Switzerland, Serbia, Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, Mongolia, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Tunisia, and United Kingdom

Against this background, a one-day conference on strengthening OSCE-UN co-operation on SSR was held in Vienna on 7 July 2014, jointly organised by the OSCE and the UN and co-hosted by Slovakia and Switzerland, with the assistance of DCAF. The event brought together high-level representatives from foreign ministries, academia, as well as UN and OSCE officials. The objective of the conference was twofold. Firstly, discussions focused on sharing experiences of both organisations in developing their approaches to SSR, and the elaboration of corresponding policies and guidance. Secondly, the conference examined opportunities to enhance operational collaboration in supporting SSG/R between the two organisations. Supporting active dialogue on SSR could translate into enhanced coherence of multilateral SSR assistance in the field. The present summary report provides a synthesis of the discussions of the joint conference.

The OSCE and UN – Approaches and Perspectives on SSG/R

Development of the UN Approach to SSR

1. The UN has made great progress in developing its system-wide approach to SSR. It has also enjoyed success in developing its own dedicated capacities for SSR, both through DPKO's SSR Unit and IASSRTF. This allowed the UN to take a leading role in the international policy and normative discourse on SSG/R. In this regard, the UN Secretary General's reports as well as the Integrated Technical Guidance Notes (ITGNs) on SSR have helped to identify good practices and to advance and develop SSR principles. The UN SSR Unit functions as a technical capacity centre supporting the whole UN system, as well as Member States and external partners. In addition, the Unit also provides the Secretariat for the IASSRTF. The IASSRTF brings together fourteen departments, offices and funds⁴ and is chaired by DPKO and UNDP.

The Role of the UN Group of Friends on SSR

2. It was noted that the creation of the UN Group of Friends (GoF) on SSR has been instrumental in developing a shared understanding of SSR and in building an informal dialogue among Member States and with the UN Secretariat. The GoF reflects the growing recognition of SSR as an integral part of conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding more broadly. It provides a transparent forum for Member States to discuss their experiences and develop and agree on common approaches to SSR. Its active dialogue on SSR has helped to build shared agreement on key principals, as well as raise awareness and knowledge about SSR and the related UN processes among Member States. Furthermore, the Group of Friends has not only strengthened the exchange between Member States, but has also become an effective interface between States and relevant UN bodies.

The UN Integrated Technical Guidance Notes on SSR

3. The ITGNs were produced through the system-wide effort undertaken in the framework of the Inter Agency SSR Task Force. They provide a body of guidance to United Nations staff in the field and at Headquarters on topics such as democratic governance of the security sector, national security policy making, peace processes and SSR, gender-responsive SSR, and national ownership. The ITGNs can offer a valuable source of information for national actors, and a platform for launching joint initiatives with partners, including UN Member States, multilateral and regional organisations and partners in the private and public sector. Consequently, the ITGNs

⁴ Members of the IASSRTF include: The Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Peacebuilding Support Office, the United Nations Development Programme, UN Women, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the Office of the Special Advisor on Africa, the Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research; and the United Nations Population Fund.

are an important part of the United Nations efforts to provide a holistic and coherent approach to SSR.

Keeping SSR on the UN Agenda

4. On 28 April 2014, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2151 – the first ever stand-alone resolution on SSR, co-sponsored by 41 countries. The achievement signals the broad political support for work in this area. The resolution underlines the UN's support to SSR, which is first and foremost anchored in the principle of national ownership. Resolution 2151 has provided specific language on the need for senior UN leadership in the field to take into account the strategic value of SSR and to mainstream their work in this area. The resolution requested to further strengthen monitoring and evaluation of UN support to SSR – an implementation action plan is currently being developed. The UN Inter-Agency Task Force is developing a guidance note on this topic, acknowledging the fact that the ITGNs need to be updated regularly to reflect the evolving needs and lessons learnt. Finally, the resolution also stresses the importance of partnerships and co-operation with regional and sub-regional organisations in accordance with Chapter VIII of the UN Charter.

The OSCE's Normative Framework concerning SSG/R

5. SSG/R is a topic that is deeply embedded in the OSCE and its activities. The OSCE has acquired a broad normative framework, comprising the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and many other important documents, for instance the Border Security and Management Concept, or the Gender and SSR Toolkit. The Code of Conduct is a prominent example in this regard: It reflects the commitment of OSCE participating States to consider the democratic governance of their armed forces as an indispensable element of stability and security.

Support to SSG/R by the OSCE's Executive Structures

6. The OSCE's executive structures support participating States by acting as facilitators for training courses, conferences and seminars, whereby expertise is shared and awareness about specific aspects of SSG/R is raised. The OSCE Secretariat and Institutions offer assistance and expertise to the field operations in all three security dimensions (politico-military, economic and environmental, human). It was noted that much of the support linked to SSG/R provided in the field is often less visible and includes the provision of advice, assistance and expertise. Nevertheless, many OSCE Field Operations are very involved in SSG/R activities, such as police reform or border management and security.

Follow-up to the DCAF Mapping Study on the Role of the OSCE in SSG/R

7. The OSCE Secretariat recently provided a management response to the aforementioned mapping study for the current and incoming OSCE Chairmanships. This response was consolidated among all OSCE executive structures and outlines

priorities. The OSCE Secretariat has now taken the first steps towards finding a more coherent approach to SSG/R for the organisation through an extra-budgetary project. The project enables the OSCE Secretariat to support the recently established OSCE Group of Friends of SSG/R, the organisation of this conference, as well as the development of internal guidelines on SSG/R.

Developing OSCE Internal Guidelines on SSG/R

8. The process of developing internal guidelines on supporting SSG/R is currently being initiated. Similar to the UN's ITGNs, the OSCE guidelines will be geared to staff from the executive structures (Secretariat, Institutions, and Field Operations). The objective is to reflect the distinct profile of the OSCE and its contexts of operation. If the OSCE can further build on its advantages through a needs-based approach, it will not only strengthen partnerships with other international organisations such as the UN, but also increase the relevancy of the OSCE for participating States. These guidelines will neither contain any new obligations for participating States, nor interfere with the autonomy or the mandate of the OSCE's executive structures. The guidelines will aim at developing a more coherent approach and to provide practical guidance, thereby improving efficiency and effectiveness of already existing support. During the process, it will be important to remain mindful of the diversity of the OSCE's work and expertise, and to also adequately involve all relevant stakeholders located outside of Vienna. Developing a volume of guidelines that only reflects purely normative discussions and that has no tangible impact on activities in the field has to be avoided. The guidelines that the OSCE developed in the field of early warning may provide for a good example.

The OSCE Group of Friends of SSG/R

9. As SSG/R has increasingly evoked the interest of a number of participating States, an open-ended OSCE Group of Friends (GoF) on SSG/R was launched prior to this conference by Slovakia (chair), Switzerland, and Serbia. At the date of its establishment (30 June 2014), 16 states officially declared their support, and this number has now risen to 20 states. The GoF is inspired by the experiences of the UN Group of Friends of SSR. The aim of the GoF is to provide an informal platform for participating States to discuss developments regarding SSR/G within the organisation. The participating States, through the Group of Friends, can contribute by sharing their ideas, experiences, and proposals related to ongoing SSG/R activities.

General Remarks on Multilateral SSG/R Co-operation

10. External support to SSR is increasingly becoming more multilateral and, as a consequence, the ability of intergovernmental organisations to work together with other actors becomes more important. It was agreed that global and regional intergovernmental organisations have assumed important roles in the field of SSR. Many international organisations are involved in providing assistance to SSR in their Member States with varying degrees of success. For that reason, there is a need to

develop organisational partnerships whenever possible, in order to avoid duplication and incoherence between efforts of individual organisations and donors. Furthermore, there is a need to rationalise available resources in times of financial austerity. However, it was also raised that some states prefer bilateral SSR support, because of concerns regarding international scrutiny into national security affairs.

11. Enhancing partnerships of multilateral organisations should not necessarily be limited to the UN and OSCE, but may also include other regional organisations, such as the African Union or the European Union. Expanding inter-organisational partnerships may prove useful for sharing good practices and building capacities for tackling common challenges of implementation of SSR on the ground.

Sharing Experiences between the OSCE and UN on SSG/R

Identifying Common Priorities in External Support to National SSR Processes

12. International stakeholders are often confronted with challenges when supporting SSR. One of the most fundamental issues is associated with the relationships between international organisations and the states whose SSR processes they support. It is crucial to ensure that any international support at the technical level is translated to effective engagement at the political level. Since SSR is highly political and of a sensitive nature, it is essential that the process is transparent and inclusive. National ownership is vital in order to minimise the risk of external imposition. All SSR activities need take into account national experiences and specific needs of respective stakeholders. Nevertheless, it may also be useful for national stakeholders engaged in SSR to learn from other experiences. Given the complexity and magnitude of SSR support activities in various parts of the world, there is no room for international competition. Instead, international organisations should prioritise knowledge transfer and cooperation. Furthermore, engaging with state institutions is essential, but there is also a need to build the constituency on SSR beyond the state by including civil society and think tanks.

Lessons Learnt in Developing Organisation-wide Approaches to SSR

13. In terms of developing organisation-wide approaches to SSR, multilateral organisations and their Member/participating States play different roles. The value of so-called “champion states” was underlined as a critical factor. Although there may be broad agreement on the importance of SSR within an organisation, the actual level of support among Member/participating States may differ. Therefore, it is necessary to clarify the basis of financial and political support to the process of implementing an organisation-wide approach among States. The organisations as such often act as co-ordinating mechanism and can promote a common institutional understanding of SSR. Conceptual and normative clarity within the respective

Headquarters/Secretariat will also help to shape SSR activities in the field more efficiently and thus increase their impact.

Including Perspectives from the Field

14. Many OSCE and UN field operations are extensively involved in SSR related activities. In order to develop a more coherent approach to SSR that is both practical and implementable on the working level, it is necessary to include the rich expertise and practical know-how from the field. Any normative framework or operational guidance can only be of meaning if they reflect working realities on the ground. Hence, the perspectives of field operations are very important.

Experiences the UN can offer the OSCE

15. It was noted that the UN can offer lessons learnt in terms of developing a more coherent approach to SSR. The OSCE could take inspiration from the UN's efforts when developing its own specifically tailored guidelines. The UN can offer insights into its development of the ITGN with regard to methodological approaches and technical and procedural insights. The guidance notes address many topics that are relevant for the OSCE's area of operation. The UN is also able to provide support through its roster of SSR experts.
16. The experience of the UN has made it clear that the support of its Member States is vital to the process of successfully identifying means for the development of a more coherent approach to SSR. Therefore, sharing insights and experiences regarding the role of the UN GoF could be useful for the OSCE and its GoF.

Experiences the OSCE can offer the UN

17. The legitimacy of the UN's SSR activities is related to the extent to which the UN is informed by and responsive to the actual needs of Member States and their regional contexts. The OSCE is the largest regional arrangement operating under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter. The OSCE has developed capabilities that can complement UN efforts in the area of SSG/R, for instance through its comprehensive approach to security, field presences, strong institutional network, and ability to provide tailor-made approaches. The OSCE's ability to convene regional and national governmental and non-governmental stakeholders is well recognised. The OSCE has accumulated regional expertise in many important areas of SSG/R, including police reform, border management and security, counter-terrorism, anti-corruption, good governance, rule of law, military reform and co-operation, gender mainstreaming, human rights in the armed forces, and justice sector reform.
18. The experience of developing and implementing the politically-binding Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security is a significant asset that the OSCE can share with other intergovernmental organisations.

Benefits of Promoting Co-operation between the UN and the OSCE on SSR

19. The importance of partnerships and co-operation has been underlined in UN Security Council Resolution 2151, as well as in the second UN Secretary General's Report on SSR of 2013. Active dialogue between the UN and the OSCE on SSR has a number of advantages. Firstly, UN – OSCE dialogue could contribute to enhancing coherence of multilateral support to SSR in the field. Secondly, increased synergy could contribute to achieving better results sooner, in particular by using the comparative advantages and tools of both organisations more efficiently.
20. In May 2014, co-operation between the UN and the OSCE under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter was discussed at an OSCE Security Days conference on revitalising co-operation under Chapter VIII held in Vienna. Collaboration among UN, OSCE and other regional organisations on SSR can maximise synergies and complementarities and thus contribute to materialising the rationale of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter. While the UN can support the work of regional organisations through the practical experiences it has accumulated over decades, it increasingly relies on regional expertise that is provided by organisations such as the OSCE.
21. Both the UN and the OSCE have collected a wealth of experience in supporting nationally-led SSR processes. The UN is active on a global scale, and the OSCE can offer its expertise and comparative advantages on the regional level. The OSCE has developed a broad normative framework with regard to SSG/R, such as the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security of 1994. Through its field operations, the OSCE has been active in various participating States, and has often engaged in activities related to SSG/R together with the UN.
22. Through regular dialogue, the UN and OSCE can exchange lessons learnt and best practices and may include other international organisations that have already taken measures to support SSR more coherently. Similarly, exchanges between the UN and OSCE groups of friends on SSR could be useful. Focusing on pragmatic and balanced, yet enhanced co-operation between the two organisations on SSR could be an important first step. In the current climate of financial constraints and to avoid duplication of effort, the two organisations could, in some instances, identify a division of labour concerning external support to SSR processes.

Collaboration on the Prevention of Conflicts and SSR

23. States increasingly recognise SSR as an important concept in many of the UN's and OSCE's thematic efforts involving conflict prevention, early warning and crisis management. Thus, there is a strong encouragement that SSR be placed, early on, on the agenda of peace processes. This requires taking SSR into account when conducting political dialogue and mediation.
24. In light of the dramatic global increase in tensions and conflicts observed lately, it has become apparent that the international community should not miss the opportunity to enhance the quality, impact and sustainability of global SSR support.

25. The OSCE, with its role in conflict prevention and its history of contributing to regional stability and security is a natural partner for the UN in promoting and advancing SSG/R. The value of building partnerships between the UN and the OSCE in delivering SSR support can enhance both organisations' contributions to the maintenance of international peace and security.

Lessons Learnt from South East Europe

26. South East Europe can serve as a case study to highlight co-operation between the UN and OSCE on SSR in the field. It was highlighted that both the UN and OSCE field operations in South East Europe would welcome more collaboration in cross-dimensional issues of SSR, which comprises topics such as human trafficking or gender mainstreaming in the security sector.

Overcoming Challenges in Supporting SSG/R in South East Europe

27. The OSCE and the UN continue to face challenges in terms of support to reform processes in South East Europe. However, progress in the region has been made, for example with regards to defence reform and democratic oversight of the security sector in some states. The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, for instance, places emphasis on education and training and on including civil society and the media. The regional experience of the OSCE underlines the crucial importance of the political commitment and national ownership of SSR processes.
28. Although South East Europe experiences a very high concentration of international field presences, international organisations will gradually reduce their presences in the region over the coming years. Consequently, sustainability of accomplished and ongoing reforms, and progress achieved should become the priority. Successful models of sustainable support generally include the involvement of civil society. In South East Europe there is still room for improving co-operation with civil society organisations, in particular in the politico-military dimension. UN Women's extensive partnerships with civil society organisations may provide useful insights into how co-operation with civil society organisations could be expanded
29. States that wish to update or develop a national security strategy may benefit from exchanging experiences with neighbouring states. For instance, Albania's experience in developing a new national security strategy could entail insights for other states embarking on similar endeavours. Inspiration could be drawn from the process of preparing the strategy, the methodology used, contributing actors, and influencing factors. Aspects to consider when developing a strategy include threat perceptions in the region, for example corruption, organised crime and other unresolved issues. Analysis of the current state of affairs should focus not only on challenges and

threats, but should also take into consideration opportunities for creating a more secure and stable region.

UN – OSCE Co-operation in South East Europe

30. Experience from the region has shown that OSCE-UN co-operation achieved the best results when it took a flexible, transparent and pragmatic approach with active involvement of the host country and civil society. In South East Europe, the OSCE and UN agencies are co-operating on various SSR related issues, for instance in promoting gender mainstreaming in the security sector, rule of law, and the fight against corruption.
31. In South East Europe, the OSCE and UN are often perceived differently. UN agencies, in particular UNDP, are generally seen as providers of management capacity. On the other hand, the OSCE is mostly regarded as working towards achieving stabilisation. In this region, host states chose to communicate their transitioning to democracy by showing that they were involving the OSCE in reform efforts. The extensive presence of the OSCE in the region, especially outside of capitals, has played a notable role in this regard.

Lessons Learnt from Central Asia

32. Central Asia is a region which has enjoyed high priority in the OSCE and is an important region for UN as well. The joint regional efforts of the OSCE and UN in supporting SSR were discussed with particular focus on Kyrgyzstan. Experience on the ground in the region illustrates how host nations' political commitment is decisive for initiating comprehensive reform and for addressing root causes of insecurity.

The Importance of Understanding the Local Context

33. It was agreed that in recent years, the continuously evolving security landscape in Central Asia has become more challenging. National and transnational threats include the rise in violent extremism and radicalisation that lead to terrorism (VERLT), organised crime, border incidents related to unresolved border problems, as well as the accumulated discord and issues of inter-ethnic relations in border areas. In addition, the gradual withdrawal of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) from Afghanistan has an impact on neighbouring countries. In light of these circumstances, there is a perceived need to complement direct SSR efforts by addressing key issues that create and exacerbate security problems. Support to SSR in the region should be systematic, adjusted to the regional context, and must not be an obstacle to pursuing overarching priorities of encouraging political commitment for other reforms, regional co-operation, or addressing root causes of instability.

34. The engagement of the international community in Central Asia has demonstrated that specific needs of the countries in the region must be taken into account if SSR efforts are to be sustainable. Moreover, it is important to acknowledge that regional security threats may be interpreted differently by international organisations and host countries.

UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

35. In line with the overarching objective of SSR to enable security for all citizens, UNODC is focusing on combating crime and rule of law aspects. UNODC has acquired extensive experience and developed regional and national capacity and tools in several areas related to SSR such as legal reform, law enforcement, criminal justice, and anti-corruption.

The OSCE Centre in Bishkek

36. Operating in a complex political landscape, the OSCE Centre in Bishkek is working towards ensuring that cross-dimensional SSG/R aspects are being addressed. This includes promoting gender equality, strengthening inter-communal relations, and combating transnational threats. The Centre has accumulated rich experience - both positive and negative - in the field of SSG/R and is active in areas such as good governance, democratic control of the armed forces, border management, law enforcement, combating terrorism and VERLT, combating money laundering and terrorist financing, and promoting the rule of law and the protection of human rights.

Assessing the Impact of International Support to SSR in Central Asia

37. The OSCE, UN, and bilateral donors have experienced that their efforts have not always met their desired objectives, for example in the area of police reform. The absence of a systemic “whole-system” approach to SSR efforts of some international actors in the region is seen as a serious impediment. For instance, despite the efforts of international organisations in the region, cross-border trafficking in illegal drugs has increased over the past few years. This is in part due to the difficulties international organisations face in addressing root causes, such as corruption.

Involving Civil Society in Central Asia SSG/R Efforts

38. Similar to other regions, the involvement of civil society is central to meaningful support to SSR. However, some concerns about the independence and integrity of civil society actors have been voiced in Central Asia. This includes the perception that civil society actors may be used as proxies for external influence. Such perceptions make even limited civil society involvement in SSR oversight challenging to sustain.

Identifying Possibilities for Expanding UN – OSCE Co-operation

39. For international SSR support to be effective in Central Asia, the importance of focusing on governance and institution-building must be recognised. Experience in the region has shown that ignoring the root problems, especially poor governance and corruption, may provoke a negative chain effect.
40. The OSCE and the UN pursue similar goals in Kyrgyzstan, namely to assist in strengthening the security situation of the country and ensuring lasting stability. However, a need to reinvigorate inter-agency co-operation and to work closely together to achieve mutual objectives was voiced. It was also noted that in order to achieve sustainable results, OSCE-UN co-operation in some areas of the security sector should be linked to wider SSR objectives. Furthermore, the potential to increase inter-organisational co-operation with regard to fighting corruption was highlighted.

The Way Ahead

41. It was recognised that SSR is a long-term and continuous process posing a challenge to all Member/participating States. The conference confirmed the potential for dialogue between the UN and the OSCE to further identify the strengths and weaknesses of their individual and joint support to SSR processes.
42. The importance of national ownership was highlighted on many occasions. While both organisation's normative framework and political commitment of their Member/participating States is important, the active involvement of the host state and its civil society is essential for successful and sustainable reforms. Encouraging exchanges on their experiences among neighbouring states may also have a positive "peer-pressure" effect.
43. Understanding the local and regional context is essential. It remains important to share regional lessons learnt and best practices throughout the organisations. This may aid to identify entry points for supporting SSR and to create new ideas for practical approaches to SSR.
44. In the near future, the OSCE prioritises the development of internal guidelines for its staff and to support the OSCE Group of Friends of SSR. The OSCE and UN will enhance the working level exchanges as well as making an effort to increase co-operation on the operational level in the field. Opportunities for regional co-operation among the OSCE, UN, and other international organizations will also be explored. Following the development of guidelines, the OSCE will develop and provide training for staff members of the executive structures on coherent support to SSG/R. Regionally, the involvement and support of the UN will be highly desirable in this regard.

45. The readiness of the two organisations to maintain and increase direct conversations and a continuous exchange on the working level, in the spirit of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, has been reaffirmed. Thus, as a concrete output of this conference and in line with the call for increased experience sharing, OSCE officials will visit counterparts of the DPKO SSR Unit and other members of the IASSRTF at the UN Headquarters to exchange practical experiences and identify best practices in developing internal guidance.

Recommendations

In addition to the above considerations involving OSCE – UN co-operation on SSR, the conference put forward the following recommendations:

To the UN and OSCE:

- 1) Strengthen dialogue between the UN and OSCE in the area of doctrine, training, available expertise and similar cross-cutting issues. The dialogue should also focus on how to support national SSR processes in a mutually supportive manner;
- 2) Develop further insights on OSCE – UN collaboration on SSR by gaining a clearer picture on how the two organisations already collaborate, on normative and on operational levels, at headquarters and in the field;
- 3) Draw lessons from various experiences in providing coherent SSR support in post-conflict situations and for prevention purposes;
- 4) Appoint points of contact for SSG/R co-operation at DPKO (SSR Unit) and the OSCE Secretariat (Conflict Prevention Centre);
- 5) Organise regional and sub-regional conferences on SSR and on UN – OSCE co-operation in this regard;
- 6) Consider ways to increase the involvement of civil society organisations.

To the UN Secretariat:

- 1) Encourage the OSCE to participate in UN's mapping of SSR organizational areas of expertise. DCAF could support this effort;
- 2) Continue to promote regional and sub-regional inter-agency partnerships on SSR.

To the OSCE Executive Structures:

- 1) Continue to strengthen co-operation on SSG/R with other intergovernmental organisations, in particular with the UN.
- 2) Consider how to institutionalise co-ordination on SSG/R both at the OSCE Secretariat level and within the structures of field operations. This should include considerations to the necessary financial and human resources.
- 3) In light of the increasing number of requests for assistance in security sector management or reform, strengthen technical support and administrative capacities, including potentially creating a roster of national experts on SSG/R.

To OSCE participating States:

- 1) Pledge funding to the OSCE Secretariat's extra-budgetary SSG/R project (No. 1101496) and support its further development.
- 2) Consider strengthening the OSCE "acquis" pertaining to democratic control of the security sector, i.e. by strengthening the implementation of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects Security as a key normative pillar of SSG/R.
- 3) Increase dialogue with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on SSG/R.

Keynote Addresses

Ambassador Thomas Greminger

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Secretary General, Assistant Secretary General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to open today's conference on Strengthening OSCE - UN Co-operation on Security Sector Reform. I am pleased to see that this topic has evoked the interest of numerous delegations and partners. It is an honour to welcome so many high-level speakers today.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Slovakia for being such an excellent co-host, and the staff at the Department for Peacekeeping Operations' SSR Unit and OSCE's Conflict Prevention Centre for their great efforts for jointly organising this event. My thanks also go to the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, who has provided us with their expertise and assistance throughout the preparations of this conference.

Switzerland has chosen strengthening security sector governance as one of the ten priorities of its OSCE Chairmanship; indeed, we firmly believe that all States should strive to increase the governance of their security sector in a manner that it provides a service to the people while fully respecting fundamental freedoms and human rights.

The OSCE has already adopted several decisions and documents that call on the participating States to follow these principles. The Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security may be the most prominent example in this

regard. It reflects the commitment of the participating States to consider the democratic governance of their armed forces as an indispensable element of stability and security.

Security Sector Governance and Reform (SSG/R) is a continuous process that applies to all participating States. Switzerland is no exception. We regularly undertake reforms in our security sector in order to strengthen governance and the effective and efficient provision of security.

This is not a topic that only concerns a few States. Good governance of the security sector is the responsibility of all participating states.

In preparation of its Chairmanship, Switzerland has commissioned the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces with a mapping Study on the Role of the OSCE in SSG/R. The mapping study has found that the OSCE is heavily engaged on the strategic, the thematic and the operational level in SSG/R. The organisation has collected a wealth of normative documents that address the governance of the security sector, and it has engaged in activities aiming towards reforming the security sector throughout the OSCE Area.

However, the study also found that the OSCE has to date not found a coherent approach to SSG/R. In order to address the Chairmanship's priority of strengthening the governance of the security sector, we have decided to initiate first steps towards finding a more coherent approach to SSG/R for the organisation by supporting an extra-

budgetary project jointly with Slovakia and Serbia.

This project enables the OSCE Secretariat to support the OSCE Group of Friends of SSG/R, which has been founded just last week and immediately had 16 members. Secondly, this project has enabled the organisation to jointly organise today's conference with the SSR Unit of the UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations. Thirdly, through this project, the organisation will develop internal guidelines for supporting SSG/R processes and activities, for staff of the executive structures.

I look forward to learn more about the UN's approach to SSG/R, how they have identified ways to support SSG/R more coherently, and how the UN has developed internal guidelines.

Thank you for your attention.

State Secretary Peter Burian

Check against Delivery

It is a real pleasure for me to be back in Vienna and attend this important conference on UN – OSCE cooperation on security sector reform.

This conference represents one of the results of a joint Swiss – Slovak cooperation and engagement within the OSCE focused on promotion of the increasingly important topic of Security Sector Reform or Management.

I remember our discussion here at the OSCE a year ago when we addressed this topic based on a presentation of the mapping study on OSCE's role in supporting participating states' efforts in the area of security sector reform or management. There were many differing views of participating States expressed during the discussion on this matter. At the same time we all agreed that an active dialogue between the United Nations and the OSCE on SSR would be useful. It could on the one hand contribute to enhancing coherence of multilateral support to SSR in the field and on the other hand an increased synergy could contribute to achieving better results sooner in particular by using comparative advantages and tools of both organisations more efficiently.

In this regard I am pleased to see one year after that, also thanks to activities organised by the Swiss Chairmanship in Office, we have a better understanding of the concept of security sector management or reform. In particular, the participating States have increasingly recognised SSR as an important concept in many of the organisations' thematic efforts involving conflict prevention, early warning and crisis management (as the

concept note for this conference indicates).

We have also managed to launch an active dialogue between the OSCE and the United Nations. It has already delivered concrete results. In particular through better defining tools and mechanisms of current and future cooperation in the field. This conference is yet another demonstration of this positive mutual engagement. It is an important step of further developing the necessary partnerships and identifying areas of potential collaboration for the future. We are convinced that by learning from each other's best practices and sharing experiences both organisations will be better prepared and equipped to tackle the challenges at hand together.

This kind of partnership and cooperation is exactly what the UN Secretary General is calling for in his 2nd Report on SSR from last summer. Importance of this kind of partnership of the UN with regional organisations has been also underlined in the recently adopted landmark UN Security Council Resolution 2151 on SSR.

Mr. Chairman,

The concept paper for this conference eloquently elaborates the main topics for today's discussion.

With reference to this concept paper let me add a few comments on where I see the main thrust of the future OSCE – United Nations cooperation on SSR related issues.

First of all we continue to believe that the OSCE, with its distinguished role in prevention of conflicts, contributing for a long period to the stability and regional security in most of the area of the Northern Hemisphere, is a natural partner

for UN in promoting and advancing the topic of SSR.

Many OSCE missions are focused on activities like police reform, which belongs to the wider family of SSR processes. Moreover, the OSCE has managed to develop her own principles and instruments in governing security sector, most notably in the field of democratic control and transparent oversight of armed forces, intelligence services, police and judicial systems.

Thus, when it comes to SSR, the OSCE has a lot of experience and know-how to offer. I believe, however, we need to better organise ourselves and equip the OSCE with the right tools, guidance and mechanisms to better do the job of supporting the participating States' efforts in improving security sector management or conducting the necessary reforms.

We do not always need to re-invent the wheel. Sometimes it might be good to take a look or inspire ourselves from existing solutions within the UN system. The UN has made great progress in developing its system wide approach to SSR. It has also enjoyed tremendous success in developing its own dedicated capacity for SSR, both through the UN DPKO SSR Unit, but also through the Integrated SSR Task Force. These have allowed the UN to take a leading role in the international policy and normative discourse in SSR. It is important to mention the great contribution of the UN Secretary General's reports as well as the Technical Guidance Notes in helping to identify good practice as well as to advance and develop SSR principles. We believe the OSCE should take benefit or some inspiration from these important UN achievements in drawing its own specific and regionally tailored approaches and building Organisation's

architecture supporting SSR efforts and programs in the Headquarters and in the field. The OSCE will also need to consider how to institutionalise its coordination on SSR here in Vienna but also within the structures of field missions. This can include a dedicated senior level SSR forum within the OSCE, Senior SSR Advisors at field level that could help coordinate approaches across the mission, or even dedicated SSR Units that bring together the various departments working on rule of law, police reform, justice reform, and defence reform.

It should also build or strengthen its own technical support and administrative capacities, including a roster of national experts on SSR to better support and react on participating States' requests for assistance in security sector reform or management. As we can observe gradually more demands from diverse countries for assistance in reforming their security sector.

Mr. Chairman,

Currently, many international organisations are involved in assistance to SSR worldwide with various level of success. Since several organisations run their SSR missions or projects in the same country, sharing ultimately the same goals, there is a need for partnerships between such organisations.

A need to use and to build synergies in such activities whenever possible in order to avoid overlapping, duplicity and lack of coherence between the efforts of individual donors as well as to rationalise available resources and toolkits in time of financial austerity.

Ensuring coherence in doctrinal terms in SSR would be useful as well as exploring lead roles and areas of core expertise amongst both organisations. I believe the

cooperation between the OSCE and the UN is an important element of success of our endeavours and its sustainability.

Let me say that in similar way Slovakia promotes enhancing partnership of UN in the field of SSR also with other important regional organisations, like, for example, the African Union.

We have already co-organised a couple of events in Africa in order to encourage stronger partnership between the UN and African Union in the field of SSR and we plan to continue in this effort also in the near future. Likewise we believe partnership between OSCE and regional organisations like the African Union and others would be extremely useful for sharing best practices and building capacities for tackling together challenges of implementation of SSR on the ground.

There is also a space for developing partnerships in the field of SSR among Participating States.

Here I want to mention the importance of the UN Group of Friends of SSR for developing the understanding of SSR and an informal dialogue on this topic among Member States and with the UN Secretariat.

I think the active dialogue on SSR within the Group of Friends has helped to build consensus on the key principals of SSR as well as to demystify the topic and to raise awareness and knowledge about SSR and the related UN processes among Member States.

Furthermore, the Group of Friends has not only strengthened the exchange between Member States, it has also become an effective interface and important forum between States and relevant UN bodies.

In this respect I proudly welcome the launching of the OSCE Group of Friends of SSG/R a few days ago under the leadership of Slovakia.

I believe this group will use its potential to serve as a platform for discussion on development of SSR topic within the organisation and to build consensus among the participating states on SSR reflecting on their various perceptions, approaches and needs. We expect that influence of the Group will improve OSCE lines of conduct and assistance for instance through its Field Missions.

Finally, we recognise the vital role of civil society in strengthening the national ownership of SSR processes. Civil society should be integrated at every step of the way, from the development of a common national security vision, to the implementation of reform processes, and to the review of progress. Also in this respect, we believe the dialogue between the United Nations and OSCE on SSR should include sharing experiences of both organisations on the involvement of civil society in supporting SSR at the national level.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion I wish to reiterate that we are convinced of the importance of SSR in both the OSCE and the UN contexts. In this regard, allow me to emphasise again the value of building partnerships between these two organisations for an effective delivery of SSR support sustainability of its results and thus contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security. I look forward to many useful ideas and suggestions from this conference on how strengthen this partnership and cooperation for the benefit of everybody.

Thank you for your attention.

Secretary General Lamberto Zannier

Check against Delivery

Mr. State Secretary, Mr. Assistant Secretary-General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to first of all thank our hosts Switzerland and Slovakia for their support in holding today's conference. I would also like to use this opportunity to officially congratulate both States, as well as Serbia, for successfully launching a Group of Friends of Security Sector Governance and Reform last week. Your efforts underline the sincere interest of the participating States in Security Sector Governance and Reform (SSG/R) and its relevance for the Organisation.

It is also my pleasure to welcome United Nations Assistant Secretary-General Titov in Vienna today. Allow me to thank him and the Department for Peacekeeping Operations for their commitment and contributions to organising this joint conference. Last but not least, I would like to express my gratitude to the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces and Prof. Hänggi for their assistance and the provision of their profound expertise to organise today's event.

This is the second time this year that we discuss co-operation between the UN and the OSCE under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter. At an OSCE Security Days conference on revitalising co-operation under Chapter VIII held in Vienna in May, participants discussed the need to learn from each other and exchange experiences. While the UN can guide the work of regional organisations through the practical experiences it has accumulated over decades, it increasingly relies on regional expertise that is provided by organisations such as the

OSCE. In this regard, I emphasised that the OSCE needs to closely examine its own role as a regional arrangement and how this role could further be operationalised.

The conclusions of the Security Day on Chapter VIII also apply to SSG/R. Both the UN and the OSCE have collected a wealth of experience in supporting nationally-led SSG/R processes. The UN is active on a global scale, and the OSCE can offer its expertise and comparative advantages on the regional level.

The OSCE has acquired outstanding expertise and developed a broad normative framework with regard to SSG/R, such as the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security of 1994, among other documents. Through its field operations, the OSCE has been active in various participating States, and has often engaged in activities related to SSG/R together with the UN. The panels today will shed light on those aspects of our co-operation.

The OSCE's broad engagement and its potential role in SSG/R were also underlined by the DCAF mapping study commissioned by Switzerland. The study's comprehensive nature has created broad interest in SSG/R within the Organisation. As a follow-up, the Secretariat recently issued a management response to the study for Switzerland and Serbia as current and incoming OSCE Chairmanships.

This response was consolidated among all OSCE executive structures and outlines our priorities, including support for the newly founded Group of Friends, today's joint conference and the development of internal guidelines. In order to support this process, we have established an extra-budgetary project funded by

Slovakia, Switzerland and Serbia to create a new staff position.

We have just initiated the process of developing internal guidelines on supporting SSG/R. Similar to the UN's internal guidelines, they are targeted to staff from the OSCE executive structures, namely the Secretariat, Institutions, and Field Operations. However, the OSCE's area of operation and approach to support naturally differ from those of the UN. Over the years, we have shown that the OSCE can offer expertise on many important aspects of SSG/R, including police reform, border management and security, counter-terrorism, anti-corruption, human rights for armed forces, justice sector reform and many others.

We have the flexibility to quickly adjust our support to changing needs and the evolving environment in which we operate. Our aim is to develop guidelines geared to our own distinct profile and contexts of operation. If the Organisation can further build on its advantages through a needs-based approach, it will not only strengthen partnerships with other international organisations such as the UN, but it will also increase the relevancy of the OSCE for participating States.

I look forward to learning more about the UN's experiences in developing its approach to SSG/R and in developing Integrated Technical Guidance Notes. I am very pleased to have the opportunity to hear from UN representatives and external experts about UN-OSCE co-operation in South Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

It is my hope that we can identify new opportunities in our work and jointly develop ways to deepen our co-operation

in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of both our organisations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish you fruitful discussions and a successful conference. Thank you for your attention.

Assistant Secretary-General Dmitry Titov

Check against Delivery

Secretary General Zannier, State Secretary Burian, and Ambassador Greminger,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to start by thanking Slovakia and Switzerland for co-hosting this important event, and the OSCE – for the excellent cooperation in co-organising it with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO). I would also like to extend my gratitude to the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) for their exemplary partnership on this issue. It is a pleasure for me to witness our two Organisations coming together to discuss the topic of security sector reform (SSR). As the UN Secretary-General has recently noted, "The purpose of security sector reform, simply put, is to make people's lives safer."

Ladies and Gentlemen,
This meeting today is particularly timely. As the recent crisis in Ukraine has demonstrated, the OSCE's important function as a platform for dialogue and mediation has once again been brought to the fore. Furthermore, the importance of the OSCE spans well beyond the geographic boundaries of Europe. Its experience and practice, including the work with its Partners for Cooperation, can have considerable impact on neighbouring countries and regions.

We, at the United Nations, are encouraged by the initiative of Switzerland to address security sector management and governance as one of the priorities of its Chairmanship of the OSCE.

Many of my colleagues believe that the time may be right to begin a structured conversation between the UN and OSCE on this topic. International partners know how high the stakes are. The importance of the security sector governance spans beyond its role in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. In addition to contributing to security and stability, SSR efforts are also vital for economic and social development. As noted in the 2011 World Bank Development Report, countries experiencing major conflict often suffer from a poverty rate more than 20 percentage points higher than a country without violence.

And we know that failure to properly address various security sector management aspects can lead to the re-emergence of violence. Take the example the small country of Timor-Leste. Persistent allegations of discrimination and mismanagement in the armed forces there contributed to the outbreak of the devastating crisis in 2006, which required a massive and protracted international intervention.

For us, at the United Nations, a good security sector management means professional attitude based on accountability and what some call republican principles, on parliamentary oversight, dialogue with civil society, budgetary transparency, protection of civilians, respect for humanitarian law and human rights, adherence to the rule of law and much more.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
The UN's support to security sector governance is - first and foremost - anchored in the principle of national ownership. Simply put, security sector models cannot be imposed or automatically transplanted from outside.

Recent examples in many situations clearly indicate the need to take into account national experiences, culture and history. At the same time, SSR efforts require learning from the best international experiences as well as support of the international community. Given the enormity of the task at hand, there is no room for international competition, only for patient knowledge transfer and cooperation.

Cooperation with regional organisations is an important part of this picture, which was reiterated by the Security Council. The OSCE is the largest regional arrangement operating under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter. It is only natural that the United Nations starts its dialogue with it on how to work in countries in a mutually supportive manner.

Beyond sharing practices, doctrine and training, the UN's operational support and engagement with the OSCE can contribute to strengthening regional building blocks, which is a major element of the UN's approach. After all, the legitimacy of the UN activities in this strategic area is dependent on the extent to which it is informed by - and responsive to - the actual needs of Member States and their regional institutions.

As a very positive latest example of enhanced regional dialogue, I would like to mention the roundtables organised by DPKO and the International Peace Institute (IPI) within the "Being a Peacekeeper" series. The next high-level, regional roundtable, organised in cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the United Nations Office in Belgrade (UNOB), will be held in Belgrade on 20-21 October 2014 - to discuss with neighbouring Governments the future of the region's military and

police contributions to UN peacekeeping. Additional technical and thematic meetings in other capitals in the region are planned for 2015.

Cooperation with the OSCE is essential in underscoring another important message: the security sector good governance is critical for post-conflict environments, as well as for prevention and sustainable development. SSR is a tool that any country, from West and East, from North and South, can use to strengthen the accountability and governance of their security sector and promotion of international cooperation. There may be new topical issues to start discussing. For example, how should the international community exercise oversight over private security companies operating in conflict situations, or the issue of semi-private armed formations based on political or sectarian affiliations? Who is watching the watchers in the area of national and international cyber surveillance? How to address the legal and ethical controversies involved in using unmanned aerial vehicles? What are the dangers of a fusion between executive branches and security agencies? What are the responsibilities of armed forces in respecting humanitarian principles? These are only few additional questions that may be valid for us all.

For example, several European countries have recognised the need to strengthen their mechanisms for dealing with complaints against the armed forces. In the United Kingdom, an independent inquiry was launched to investigate the deaths of four soldiers. As a result, the Service Complaints Commissioner was created in 2006. This reform effort served to make the complaints system more independent and transparent, thus contributing to more effective oversight.

As we can see, security sector management – along with its principles of good governance, transparency and accountability - apply equally to everyone.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to recognise the right timing of this discussion. Just two months ago, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2151 - the first ever stand-alone resolution on Security Sector Reform, co-sponsored by 41 countries. This achievement signals the broad political support among Member States for our work in this area. It demonstrates that security sector reform is linked with crisis management - and, as such, is a necessary part of the UN peacekeeping and peace-making response to post-crisis situations. We are confident that key elements of this resolution will be of special value to the OSCE.

Firstly, the resolution makes a vital step forward in underlining the importance of combining “train and equip” assistance with support to security sector governance. All too often, this second element is missing. In Liberia in the 1990s, for example, lingering security sector governance deficits contributed to the re-emergence of conflict and an 80 % downturn in its economy. We must be vigilant in ensuring that all due attention is paid to SSR; the consequences of not fully doing so, after all, can be devastating, as witnessed in Iraq and Libya.

The second challenge is the need to ensure that any international support at the technical level is also translated to effective engagement at the political level. For the first time, Security Council resolution 2151 has provided specific language on the need for senior UN leadership in the field to take into full

account the strategic value of SSR. At the same time, I fully recognise that the SSR area is highly political and very sensitive. Therefore, it requires inclusion in conducting political dialogue and mediation. In South Sudan, for example, we have been strongly encouraging - through the regional organisation, Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) - that SSR be placed on the agenda of the peace process.

The third major challenge has been the need for understanding the impact of international support. The resolution requested to further strengthen monitoring and evaluation of UN support to SSR. The UN Inter-Agency SSR Task Force is currently developing a guidance note on this topic, which has been supported by Switzerland. Ultimately, any effort in this area should ensure that we are making a difference in people's lives and their security. And finally, the same resolution underlines the importance of partnerships and cooperation with regional and sub-regional organisations, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the UN Charter.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to end by sharing with some preliminary ideas the OSCE may wish to explore, if there is a consensus among delegations.

Firstly, you may consider strengthening dialogue between the UN and OSCE in the area of doctrine, training, available expertise and similar cross-cutting issues. Inter-regional collaboration could help all of us have wider access to knowledge and experience within the OSCE and across its Member States.

One particular area of mutual interest may be the issues of sovereignty and

national ownership, which is imperative for any security sector engagement. Together, we may reflect on how to draw insights from regional contexts in this area. This effort could help us answer the following questions: how is national ownership perceived and exercised in different regions? How can we demonstrate to national stakeholders that security sector governance is in their countries' best interest?

Secondly, we could build on the comparative advantages of the multilateral actors engaged in the security sector support. In this regard, I recognise the mapping study conducted by DCAF on the OSCE's support to security sector governance and reform (SSG/R). We, at the UN, may need to have similar insights.

We could also have an honest, discrete discussion on weaknesses as well as advantages of our respective

Organisations in the SSR area. And we could also try to draw lessons from various experiences in providing coherent SSR support in post-conflict situations and for prevention purposes.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
With the dramatic increase in tensions and conflict we have observed over the past months, from the Central African Republic to Ukraine to Iraq, it is clear that the international community must not miss the opportunity to enhance the quality, impact and sustainability of the global SSR support. For this to happen, we must re-dedicate ourselves to building on our strengths and mandates. Pragmatic, yet enhanced cooperation between our two Organisations could be an important first step.

Thank you for your attention, and I look forward to today's discussion.

AGENDA	
Opening and Keynotes 09:00 – 09:45	OSCE and UN Perspectives and Joint Collaboration on SSG/R Moderator: Ambassador Thomas Greminger (Switzerland) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambassador Thomas Greminger (<i>Switzerland</i>) • H.E. Mr. Peter Burian (<i>State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic</i>) • Ambassador Lamberto Zannier (<i>OSCE Secretary General</i>) • Mr. Dmitry Titov (<i>Assistant Secretary-General for the Rule of Law and Security Institutions, UN DPKO</i>)
Panel 1 09:45 – 11:15	Developing Organisation-wide Approaches to SSR: Sharing Experiences between the OSCE and the UN Moderator: Ambassador Vuk Žugić (Serbia) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambassador Marcel Pesko (<i>Director of the Office of the OSCE Secretary General</i>) • Dr. Adedeji Ebo (<i>Chief of the Security Sector Reform Unit, UN DPKO</i>) • Prof. Heiner Hänggi (<i>Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces DCAF</i>)
11:15 – 11:45	Coffee Break
Panel 2 11:45 – 13:00	The OSCE and the UN Supporting SSR in Member/Participating States: Lessons Learnt from South Eastern Europe Moderator: Ambassador Tacan İldem (Turkey) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Sokol Dervishaj (<i>Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Albania</i>) • Ambassador Fletcher Burton (<i>Head of Mission, OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina</i>) • Mr. Andrew Russell (<i>UN Development Coordinator / UNDP Resident Representative, Kosovo⁵</i>) • Ms. Sonja Stojanović Gajić (<i>Director of the Belgrade Centre for Security Policy BCSP</i>)

⁵ All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244.

13:00 – 14:30	Buffet Lunch
Panel 3 14:30 – 15:45	<p>The OSCE and the UN Supporting SSR in Member/Participating States: Lessons Learnt from Central Asia</p> <p>Moderator: Ambassador Christian Strohal (Austria)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambassador Sergey Kapinos (<i>Head of Mission, OSCE Centre in Bishkek</i>) • Mr. Jean-Luc Lemahieu (<i>Director of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs, UNODC</i>) • Prof. Graeme Herd (<i>Director of School of Government, Plymouth University</i>)
15:45 – 16:15	Coffee Break
Wrap-up and Closure 16:15 – 17:00	<p>Strengthening OSCE-UN Co-operation on SSR: The Way Ahead</p> <p>Moderator: Ambassador Ol'ga Algayerová (Slovakia)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambassador Ol'ga Algayerová (<i>Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the International Organisations in Vienna</i>) • Ambassador Thomas Greminger (<i>OSCE Chairmanship</i>) • Ambassador Adam Kobieracki (<i>Deputy Head of the OSCE Secretariat and Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre</i>) • Mr. Dmitry Titov (<i>Assistant Secretary-General for the Rule of Law and Security Institutions, UN DPKO</i>)

Joint OSCE-UN Conference

Strengthening OSCE – UN Co-operation on Security Sector Reform (SSR)

Organized by:



Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe



Co-hosted by:



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

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