



Statement  
by

H.E. Mr. Noel Sinclair  
Deputy Chef de Cabinet of the 68<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations  
General Assembly

on behalf of

the President of the 68<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations  
General Assembly

New York  
4 November 2013

Open High Level Meeting of Group of Friends of Security Sector Reform  
On the occasion of the launch of the  
United Nations Secretary-General's report on Security Sector Reform

*Please check against delivery*

Hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign affairs of Slovakia

H.E. Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General

H.E. Kingsley Mamabolo, Permanent Representative of South Africa

Asst Secretary General Dimitri Titov

Asst Administrator Mr. Jordan Ryan

As I pay tribute to the energy and passion with which Slovakia and South Africa and their Permanent Representatives are identified where the question of Security Sector Reform is concerned, I heartily welcome the invitation extended to the President of the General Assembly, Ambassador John Ashe to be present at this Meeting of Friends of Security Sector reform. This event is convened to welcome the presentation of the Secretary General's Report on that subject. Regrettably, Ambassador Ashe could not, because of conflicting engagements, be present here his morning, so he has conferred on me the honour of representing him here.

This Report is prepared in fulfillment of the request made by the Security Council in October 12<sup>th</sup> 2011. In making that request, the Council stressed that SSR should be a nationally owned process. It recognized at the same time, that there was a role for the United Nations, to be discharged in the general framework of the rule of law, as well as of the wider development effort.

Seen in broad terms, the Report before us represents another step in the evolution of the thinking within this Organization on the general question of peace and security, and its inextricable link to development. The maintenance of such peace and security is one of the founding principles and objectives of our Charter.

In that same Charter, Member States are also committed to the promotion of social progress and better standards of living. Experience has demonstrated with increasing clarity the essential inter-connection between these two principles. The concept of SSR focuses basically on the role of national institutions in creating and maintaining the conditions necessary for giving effect to these principles.

While we see reaffirmed in the Secretary-General's report the principal responsibility of the nation state for the creation and maintenance of conditions of internal peace and stability conducive to the enjoyment of basic human rights, we also see described his vision of how the Organization can make itself better equipped to assist national authorities, as well as regional and international partners, in making the security sector more responsive to the security needs of their peoples.

Developments taking place in several countries, especially during the past two years have made clear that the need to strengthen the security sector is nowhere greater than in states where, because of civil strife, and the breakdown in the rule of law, these institutions have become seriously dysfunctional or have totally collapsed. One consequence of this has inevitably been a serious setback in the national development effort and in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

This is part of the background against which the President announced, in his acceptance statement on June 14<sup>th</sup> last, his intention to convene, during his Presidency of the Assembly, a High Level Event on "Human Rights and the Rule of Law", and a Thematic Debate on "Ensuring stable and peaceful societies." In addition to feeding into the processes of formulating and articulating the Post-2015 Development Agenda, these activities are also expected to offer a contribution of ideas for strengthening the security of countries emerging out of conflict. In this way I see a mutually reinforcing relationship between Security Sector Reform and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The Secretary-General's Report is therefore not an esoteric treatise, but a document whose relevance, usefulness and applicability are supported by abundant empirical evidence. It contains a number of ideas for making that relationship of cooperation more structured, more comprehensive and more coordinated. In this way I believe it provides significant food for thought, and I expect that your discussions this morning will yield fruitful results in terms of action-oriented ideas for moving Security Sector Reform forward, and I wish you a productive session.

Thank you.