

**Security Council Open Debate on the Maintenance of International Peace and Security,  
Security Sector Reform: Challenges and Opportunities, April 2014, Security Council Chamber**

*Statement by Mr. Mayr-Harting Permanent Mission of the European Union to the United Nations.*

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its member States. The candidate countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as Ukraine, Armenia and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

At the outset, let me thank you, Mr. President, for the priority Nigeria attaches to this subject and for your having come to make your important statement and presiding over this very important meeting. It is a pleasure and a privilege for us to participate in this debate on security sector reform, and we also thank Nigeria for providing a very useful concept note (S/2014/238, annex) to that end.

We have taken note of the Secretary-General's briefing and the recommendations put forward in his report (S/2013/480). The European Union welcomes the Secretary-General's report, which makes a strong case for a strengthened United Nations role in support of nationally owned security sector reform efforts. We look forward to the adoption of the draft resolution this afternoon.

The European Union has long-standing experience of supporting security sector reform (SSR) programmes in response to the needs of conflict and post-conflict countries, of those in a transition stage or of developing countries at large. In doing so, we have at our disposal a wide range of instruments: diplomacy, crisis response, development and security policies. Allow me to make a brief review our engagement on security sector reform activities.

Most of the EU civilian and military crisis-management missions and operations deployed worldwide have an SSR component. The European Union trains, monitors and advises police, justice and military institutions and their personnel in countries such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and Somalia. From a development cooperation angle, over the period 2001-2009 the EU disbursed approximately €1 billion, targeting justice and security sector reform worldwide. That number multiplies if we consider the overall interventions through the crisis response and Common Security and Defence Policy missions mentioned earlier.

In addition, the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace, and more specifically its crisis-response measures, have become a key instrument in operating in the security-development nexus and to enable a more timely response by the European Union. Under the Instrument, the European Union is providing SSR-related support, inter alia, in the Central African Republic, Chad, Guinea-Conakry, Libya, the Niger, Mali and Myanmar, to name just a few countries. The European Union's main approach to security sector reform is to assist partner Governments in their efforts to provide effective, legitimate and accountable security and justice services to their citizens in a manner that is consistent with democratic norms, principles of the rule of law, good governance and its respect for human rights. The EU shares the view that SSR should be part of a comprehensive approach. Such an approach should not only cover the wide-ranging conflict prevention, peacebuilding, peacekeeping and State-building agendas, but also take a whole-of-society approach, recognizing interconnections with economic revenue management, youth employment, access and quality of public services, and effective oversight and governance.

Furthermore, the 2007 Council conclusions on security and development underlined the great importance of building SSR capacity in regional organizations as a means to promote ownership. Our support for building African Union capacities in security sector reform is a case in point. Our

regional focus is, moreover, strengthened through the development of targeted regional strategies, for example in the Sahel or the Horn of Africa, where the European Union tries to support the tackling of security-related challenges in a comprehensive manner, committing all relevant instruments at its disposal.

The European Union has worked in the area of security sector reform for nearly 10 years. Among the lessons we have learned are the need for a more strategic, comprehensive and coordinated approach, a better knowledge of the local context, clear objectives, concrete and measurable benchmarks for assessing progress and a better balance between ensuring service delivery outcomes and building state capacity. Security sector reform is politically and institutionally a complex process that may take a generation or more to fully take root. In that regard, we would like to underline the need for preserving the results achieved through appropriate follow up and for ensuring a smooth transition. Thereby, we try to ensure that our short-term engagement as part of the Common Security and Defence Policy is accompanied by long-term measures.

We therefore support the Secretary-General in his approach to underline the need for a better balance between service delivery — ensuring people's security and safety — and long-term institution and capacity building. Engagement with local non-state actors, the need for dialogue among national authorities, communities and civil society on security-related challenges, as well as effective monitoring by democratic oversight institutions, are also important elements that the report of the Secretary-General also highlights. Special attention should be paid to the participation of women and marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities, minorities and migrants, in planning, leading and implementing security sector reforms.

The value of local ownership and the need for coordinated support of different actors and instruments is key. We fully agree with all of those who have already made that point in the course of today's debate. We also support the activities of the United Nations Group of Friends of SSR, which serves as a very valuable vehicle to facilitate inclusive dialogue, to foster further progress in developing the United Nations comprehensive approach to SSR within the United Nations system and to build synergies among the United Nations, the European Union and other international organizations, regional actors and stakeholders, including in particular the African Union. Aside from the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Peacebuilding Commission, SSR should also be regularly placed on the agenda of the Council and be given appropriate consideration in the mandates of peacekeeping operations.

We thank you personally, Mr. President, as well as Nigeria, for your leadership in doing so. The issue is highly relevant to the business of this body, especially when it comes to a successful transition and exit for peacekeeping operations and to building and sustaining peace.