

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. Sanabria Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations.

I should like first to thank the Nigerian presidency of the Security Council for organizing this open debate and for its concept note (S/2014/238, annex). This debate is on an issue of great importance to the maintenance of international peace and security. We should also like to commend you, Sir, for having put forward a draft resolution that Spain is honoured to co-sponsor. I should also like to congratulate Luxembourg for its outstanding leadership of the Council in March.

Spain aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and wishes to add some observations in its national capacity.

Spain welcomes the report of the Secretary-General (S/2013/480), which we consider to be complete and well-focused. We acknowledge the fundamental role of the United Nations in security sector reform (SSR) and its efforts of recent years to improve the coherence and effectiveness of its actions in this area. Security sector reform, and from a wider perspective the strengthening of the rule of law in this context, is a key elements in two different areas — ex ante for conflict prevention and ex post for peacebuilding. The international community should help and support countries finding in conflict and post-conflict situations in the development of their civilian capacities and in the strengthening of their institutions.

It is critical to move from a reactive culture to conflicts — which is often late and insufficient — to one of prevention. The prevention requires political will and resources to formulate and implement effective strategies. When both elements are combined, the results are success stories such as that of Sierra Leone, with the recent closing of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Mission in Sierra Leone. Security sector reform demands action on several fronts. Stable and predictable legal frameworks must be established; the creation of competent security and police forces that are subject to and enforce the rule of law; the building of an independent and comprehensive legal system accessible to all; and the establishment of an adequate penitentiary system. **We must also ensure the protection of society's most vulnerable groups such as women, children and displaced persons.**

National ownership is, in this area as in many others, key to success. Good planning is necessary if actions designed on the basis of needs and priorities identified by the host country are to be coherent and in line with its decisions and national initiatives. Security infrastructures and institutions must be at the service of the people. Reforms must be inclusive and based on the principles of good governance, the rule of law, respect for human rights and accountability, all of which are vital in fostering long-term legitimacy, effectiveness and sustainability.

We believe that security sector reform requires a comprehensive and strategic approach. Flexibility in its planning, identification of the activities that are most appropriate at every moment, an evolving perspective, a good knowledge of the situation in the field, and a fluid, intense and ongoing dialogue with national actors are crucial. In order to be effective, efforts aimed at security sector reform require a long-term perspective and actions sustained over time.

Security sector reform based on the principles I have just mentioned is clearly an essential contribution to ensuring respect for and the implementation of international humanitarian law, including the protection of civilians. On this point, I should like to highlight the importance of the work of the Peacebuilding Commission, of which Spain has been a member for eight years, and of the Peacebuilding Fund, of which we are its eighth largest donor.

National authorities and international partners also need instruments that allow them to carry out appropriate follow-up and evaluation of their own actions. As my delegation did at the debate on the

strengthening of the rule of law in February (see S/PV.7113), I should like to highlight the recent initiative of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to develop indicators that measure the evolution of the functioning of police, legal and penitentiary institutions in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations in the areas of efficiency, capacity, integrity, transparency, accountability and the treatment of vulnerable groups. It is a useful tool for measuring the results and progress of our efforts in these sectors.

Spain has supported capacity-building in the security and legal sectors in many countries. In Sub-Saharan Africa, we have supported capacity-building of the national police forces of Angola and Cape Verde. Through our collaboration with the African Union, we support the African Peace and Security Architecture and the Common Security and Defence Policy, as well as the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism.

In Latin America, we have implemented programmes for training and for sharing experiences and good practices in legal reform by collaborating with the creation of specialized prosecutorial offices and by organizing seminars, courses and workshops that address issues such as access to justice — especially by vulnerable groups — medical-legal investigation techniques, and the fight against human trafficking. Since 2007, Spain has promoted and supported the Central American Security Strategy through the Central American Integration System in order to join and harmonize the fight against organized crime.

In Arab countries, Spain implements the Masar programme, which is designed to support democratic governance processes and aligns with the needs and priorities identified by national actors, and has supported initiatives of public institutions and civil society in the area of security, justice, penitentiary institutions and human rights.

In conjunction with other States members of the European Union, Spain has participated in civilian crisis management missions within the framework of the Common Security and Defence Policy of the European Union. We are present in training operations in Mali and Somalia and in EUCAP Nestor, EUCAP Sahel and the European Union Operation Althea, which seek to strengthen the security security. In this regard, a Spanish General currently occupies the position of Principal Adviser of the United Nations in the Republic of Guinea and is helping to define the country's security model.

Our experience of cooperation with other countries and extensive participation in peacekeeping operations has taught us that strengthening the rule of law and security sector reform is a critical pillar of conflict prevention and the building and strengthening of peace. Peace and security, human rights and development are closely linked and are mutually reinforcing. Spain will continue to actively participate in actions aimed at providing support to the efforts of other countries to establish trustworthy security capacities and institutions that are subject to the law, with the aim of helping to strengthen peace, security and development.