

Security Council Open Debate on Security Sector Reform
October 12th 2011, Security Council Chamber

Statement by H.E. Mr. Salam, Representative of Lebanon

At the outset, we would like to welcome you, Mr. President, and to express our appreciation to your country for organizing this important debate. We would also like to extend our thanks to Under-Secretary-General Mr. Hervé Ladsous for his important introductory remarks.

Lebanon aligns itself with the statement to be made by the representative of Egypt on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

In many post-conflict countries, including the majority of countries on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission, all of which are in Africa, security sector reform is a foremost priority for peacebuilding. Today, the international community perceives security sector reform within the broader framework of peace consolidation and institution building for countries emerging from conflict, as the link between security sector reform and socioeconomic development is clearer than ever.

In that regard, security sector reform should be considered within the broad framework of the rule of law and as part of a political process that is linked to other peacebuilding objectives and anchored in national ownership. At the same time, international assistance for security sector reform must be conceived and implemented within a long-term and sustainable effort. All those notions are at the heart of the draft presidential statement that we will adopt today, which Lebanon fully supports.

To that end, we see the need for more integrated planning and implementation of United Nations mandates across the entire peacebuilding continuum, starting with mediation, passing through disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and moving towards rule of law assistance, the empowerment of youth and women and socio-economic recovery. Security sector reform is influenced by the progress in all such processes over time. Its success will be largely determined by the ability to respond to context-specific demands and critical political hurdles and to address resource gaps.

The role of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund is critical, not least to encourage a more coherent and coordinated approach to those mutually reinforcing processes in the countries concerned. Also, the role of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations is important in further strengthening a comprehensive United Nations approach to security sector reform.

We need to recognize that security sector reform is a national process that is likely to see gradual transformation in the capacity of the State and in the perception of security institutions in the societies concerned. Thus, the notion of national ownership is not simply a slogan, but also a crucial element in countries emerging from conflict. Security sector reform assistance, whether undertaken bilaterally or within United Nations missions and regional frameworks, must be envisaged in close coordination with the Government and the widest possible segments of society, including women and national civil society actors. In

that context, the specific needs of girls and women in all security sector reform processes must be taken into account by supporting gender-sensitive police, army and justice reform and training, and by including women in those processes. The outcome of a capacity and needs assessment of national actors should guide the planning and implementation of security sector reform assistance, with emphasis on capacity development. The ability of the country concerned to own its own security sector reform must become a priority for the Council's mandates. In that regard, the Nigerian presidency rightly emphasizes South-South cooperation and the evolving capacity of the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States in support of security sector reform in Africa (see S/2011/627, annex).