



## Security Council briefing on the Maintenance of international peace and security: Security Sector Reform, 16 March 2023

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Thank you, President

At the outset, I thank Assistant-Secretary General Zouev and African Union Commissioner Adeoye for their briefings. I also thank Mozambique for organizing this meeting on this important topic.

One of the primary purposes of the United Nations, as stated in the Charter, is the maintenance of international peace and security. It is a keystone of the Organisation's daily work in peacebuilding and sustaining peace, including conflict prevention and post-conflict stabilisation.

The strengthening of the United Nations' comprehensive approach to Security Sector Reform and broader support to this approach is essential for the implementation of sustainable, secure, and stable institutions and environments around the world.

Security Sector Reform is a long-term and political process, that needs to be nationally driven and requires political commitment and leadership. It also depends on inter-institutional cooperation and broad stakeholder participation to achieve the widest possible buy-in.



Security Sector Reform governance is central to the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda. Knowing who is at greatest risk of perpetration and victimisation is essential for meeting the security needs of men, women, boys and girls. Translating this operationally will require training and capacity building across the armed forces, police, border guards and intelligence services.

Vetting and codes of conduct are crucial for ensuring that the security sector is a trusted partner. Gender-responsive legal, judicial and security sector reform can help overcome obstacles in women's access to justice.

An intersectional understanding of Security Sector Reform would gradually provide individuals and the state with more effective and accountable security that takes a human rights approach, and strengthens democracy, the rule of law, and good governance.

A professional, effective, and accountable security sector, and an accessible and impartial law-enforcement and justice system are necessary to laying the foundations for peace and sustainable development.

## President

The Security Sector Reform is a core element of peacekeeping, peacebuilding, and development. While ensuring national ownership, the United Nations has strengthened the assistance to national authorities to undertake critical and complex security sector reform processes.



Malta welcomes the progress made in mainstreaming child protection in military training, standard operating procedures, and disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration programs. Child protection units in national security forces and effective age assessment mechanisms to prevent underage recruitment have helped advance this agenda.

Malta stresses that reforming the security sector in post-conflict environments is critical to the consolidation of peace and stability, promoting poverty reduction, rule of law, and good governance, to prevent countries from relapsing into conflict. While the United Nations has played a valuable role in promoting security sector governance and reform, national and local-driven processes remain essential for successful outcomes.

Moreover, a holistic approach is needed in order to encompass the security and justice needs of the local population, ensuring that SSR results in state security and human security. Engagement with civil society is crucial as a key vehicle for transparency, accountability, and oversight.

President

If we strive to build a better future, accountability must be our cornerstone. SSR is crucial to addressing impunity and promoting accountability for violations and abuses of human rights and international humanitarian law, and contributes without a question, to upholding the rule of law and access to justice.



By incorporating security sector governance and reform into strategic partnerships with regional and sub-regional organisations, as well as through existing mechanisms, the United Nations could strengthen SSR.

Finally, for these long-term political processes to be effective, Member States should promote the equal representation of women at all levels in all security institutions, include gender expertise in field operations and guidance, and ensure that the workplace environment is free from sexual and gender-based harassment and discrimination.

It has been proven that their full, equal and meaningful participation has helped to build inclusive, accountable, and legitimate institutions that promote lasting peace and sustainable development.

Thank you.