

12 February 2015

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Sam Kahamba Kutesa,
President of the 69th Session of the General Assembly,
at the High-Level Meeting of the UN Group of Friends of Security
Sector Reform**

**H.E. Miroslav Lajčál, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of
Slovakia,
Mr. Deputy Secretary-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am pleased to join this High-Level Meeting of the Group of the Friends of Security Sector Reform and thank the Permanent Representative of Slovakia, H.E. Ambassador Frantisek Ruzicka and the Permanent Representative of South Africa H.E. Ambassador Kingsley Mamabolo, for convening this important event. This meeting is a valuable opportunity to exchange views on the United Nations' comprehensive approach to Security Sector Reform (SSR) and how tangible partnerships can be built between the United Nations, Member States and other international organizations, regional actors and stakeholders.

The importance of SSR is growing because it can respond to a situation in which a dysfunctional security sector is unable to provide security to the state and its people effectively. The objective of SSR is to institutionalize a professional security sector that is effective, legitimate and accountable to the citizens it is sworn to protect. It is essential that it takes place within the broad framework of rule of law.

If not given attention, the security sector can become a source of widespread insecurity and danger to the population. A security sector that is abusive in policy or practice represents a serious obstacle to the achievement of sustainable peace and development.

The reform of a country's security sector is particularly essential in post-conflict contexts. It is also likely to occur in conflict countries that are the subject of peace and stability operations. SSR may also take place in countries that are stable, as a means of optimizing the security sector—making it more effective and efficient—by building on an already strong professional foundation.

Excellencies,

I welcome the efforts of the Security Sector Reform Unit since its establishment in 2009 and the work done under the leadership of the Secretary General's Inter-agency SSR Task Force.

Security sector reform constitutes an important aspect of multidimensional peacekeeping operations and it is a pre-requisite for an effectual, sustainable transition from United Nations peacekeeping operations.

In this regard, the General Assembly, and in particular the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34), has an important role to play in the overarching United Nations approach to SSR through its comprehensive review and policy guidance.

The United Nations and international community should support security sector reform efforts to national governments, including training and capacity building. It is critical that where this happens, it is done in close partnership with the country concerned. It must be a nationally-owned process because Member States are the central providers of security and it is their sovereign right and responsibility. Success requires focused efforts, dedicated resources and concerted political will.

Regional approaches that span beyond national borders to SSR implementation and policy making are crucial. Regional and sub-regional organisations can leverage local knowledge, relationships and resources to support SSR. The United Nations has extensive experience and capacities that can be shared. Field missions, for instance, can provide invaluable support to national governments and help ensure institutions are gender-sensitive, accessible and responsive to the needs of their citizens. Therefore, cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, such as the African Union, should be strengthened to increase the efficiency of support rendered to national institutions.

Excellencies,

As you well know, this year we are working on formulating an ambitious and transformative post-2015 development agenda, aimed at improving the lives of people around the world.

Given our current work on the new development framework, it is imperative to ensure security sector reform, particularly during the post-conflict period, is designed to strengthen relevant national institutions. By maximizing this nexus, we will help ensure we are on the path toward achieving our future sustainable development objectives.

I thank you for your kind attention.