

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

*Statement by H.E. Mr. Wittig, Representative of Germany*

At the outset, let me join others in thanking the Nigerian presidency for having organized today's debate. I warmly welcome your presence and your leadership of this meeting, Sir, as well as the presence of Her Excellency Mrs. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs of India. I would also like to thank Under-Secretary-General Ladsous for his stimulating briefing.

In recent years, the importance of security sector reform (SSR) has been increasingly recognized. Such reforms are not only a key requirement for peace, the protection of human rights and sustainable development; they also play a pivotal role in crisis prevention.

I would like to emphasize three points today. First, local leadership is crucial to successful security sector reform, as is national ownership. Only national actors can ensure that the process is completed and that key issues are addressed. If the political will needed to tackle those issues is lacking, all efforts by outside actors are futile. Security sector reform remains a longterm, country-specific endeavour that very much depends on the political commitment of national authorities. United Nations involvement in national security sector reform efforts should be based on a clearly defined strategy with priorities, timelines and partnerships. Such a division of labour is also vital in the context of defining exit strategies for peacekeeping missions.

In many conflict and post-conflict situations on our agenda, reform of the security sector is an essential prerequisite for achieving sustainable peace. It is a long-term transformation process that should aim at creating security institutions that are efficient, transparent and democratic. Any such transformation of security sector structures must be based on respect for human rights and the rule of law. This is of special importance in the field of corrections. SSR also has a crucial role to play when it comes to the prevention of violence, including sexual violence. In this regard, it is also indispensable to address impunity, inter alia, through training national security forces and strengthening the capacity of the rule of law and justice institutions. SSR needs to be approached strategically and holistically.

Secondly, the various elements of reform — the establishment of civilian control over security forces and the improvement of operational capabilities and institutional structures — are interdependent. Only coordinated security sector reform can be sustainable and efficient. Delivering as one is key. We therefore welcome the close coordination on security sector reform between the Secretariat and its various units, the United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations actors. The Peacebuilding Commission also has a critical role to play. SSR has become an integral part of peacebuilding strategies for countries on its agenda.

My third and last point refers to the efforts of the various international actors who work in support of security sector reform, especially the European Union (EU). The United Nations is rarely the sole partner supporting SSR. The European Security Strategy of 2003 identified security sector reform as an area for joint EU efforts. European Union support for security

sector reform has been provided within the Common Security and Defence Policy framework as well as by the European Commission. In Africa in particular, there are numerous examples of close cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, such as the African Union and the European Union. We encourage such organizations to further broaden their interaction and exchange of views.

SSR is a complex process in which best practices should be widely shared in order to enhance efficiency. The specific needs of women, children, the disadvantaged and victims of discrimination should always be included in the design and delivery of security.