

**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. Zehnder Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations.

I thank Nigeria for convening this open debate. I will limit my remarks to the three following points.

First, Switzerland shares the opinion of the Secretary-General that security sector reform should be placed in the broader context of peacebuilding. This approach considers security sector reform to be a vast multidimensional task that contributes to conflict prevention and a lasting transformation to a peaceful society. That is why it is important not only to better explore the existing links between security sector reform and other dimensions such as the rule of law, human rights and development, but also to reflect on partnerships in this matter. The global focal point for police, judiciary and penitentiary activity coordination for promoting the rule of law after conflicts and other crises could offer the possibility of strengthening these links.

We must also strengthen the inclusive nature of security sector reform efforts pursuant to resolution 2122 (2013) by integrating the gender perspective. The importance of this point was brought up on numerous occasions during the open debate in the Security Council last Friday on women and peace and security (see S/PV.7160). Women must be included fully and on an equal footing in the security sector reform process and the different needs of men, women, boys and girls must be taken into account. Switzerland will explore this and other possibilities so as to strengthen its support for efforts aimed at strengthening the security sector reform on the ground and at the conceptual level, among others, in discussions held here at United Nations Headquarters.

Secondly, we believe it essential that the competent United Nations authorities continue their essential work to draft common standards and technical directives. The publication of the Integrated Technical Guideline Notes for security sector reform was an important step in this process. Given its global reach, the United Nations has an advantage on this issue. We therefore encourage it to pursue action in this important area.

Thirdly, the report of the Secretary-General (S/2013/480) underscores the importance of close work collaboration with regional organizations in order, inter alia, to promote local ownership. We fully support this approach. The contributions of regional organizations must be maintained and better linked to United Nations efforts. In this context, I should like to share some of Switzerland's experiences in this area since my country has assumed the chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

The strengthening of governance in the security sector is among our priorities as Chairman of the OSCE in 2014. Switzerland plans to focus its efforts on two levels — the political level and the technical level. At the political level, we supported the creation of a group of friends for security sector governance, chaired by the Slovak Republic. The objective of the group of friends is to raise awareness among States on the matter of governance of the security sector.

At the technical level, we have tasked the secretariat of the OSCE to establish an interdepartmental working group on governance of the security sector, which will be tasked with raising awareness within the OSCE and to intervene as an interlocutor in relevant questions in this area. The working group will also draft internal directives on security sector governance. The Swiss chairmanship also plans to work closely with the United Nations so as to benefit from its experience in governance of

the security sector. To that end, a conference will be held in July 2014 with the participation of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

The draft resolution that the Security Council will adopt today will provide supplementary support and momentum for security sector reform and thereby strengthen efforts under way throughout the world. We hope that the structures concerned, in particular the security sector unit and specialized teams deployed in peacekeeping operations and in special political missions will enjoy the resources they need to respond to the growing needs in this area. Switzerland remains fully engaged and will continue to be so, including in the informal group of friends.