

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

*Statement by H.E. Mr. Barbalic, Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina*

I welcome your presence in the Chamber, Sir, as well as that of Her Excellency Mrs. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs of India. I would also like to thank the Under-Secretary-General for his briefing.

Allow me to emphasize that security sector reform is one of the essential elements of any stabilization and reconstruction effort in a post-conflict situation. Strengthening security sector reform and security forces requires strong commitment and cooperation among the Government and international stakeholders. However, national ownership and leadership in that process is essential.

The role of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and the Peacebuilding Fund in security sector reform is important, and providing assistance to national authorities to define a credible security reform strategy contributes to the accountability of the security sector and enhances the professionalism of national security structures. Security sector reform must be included within a broader nationally led peacebuilding framework and strategy.

The lessons learned, the specificities of each country and the conditions on the ground must be taken into account. Cooperation with regional and subregional organizations is necessary. It is also important to emphasize sector-wide and context-driven approaches in governance, economic policy and efforts to enhance rule of law and strengthen the security sector.

Security sector reform is also an integral part of multidimensional peacekeeping operations and special political missions. Very often, it is a crucial component of the exit strategy of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

The regular reports of Council-mandated missions must better reflect the assessments of institution-building processes. That will contribute to determining existing capacity gaps that require streamlining of immediate or long-term support from the United Nations and the international community as a whole.

Rebuilding and strengthening State institutions in the area of rule of law is a basic precondition for a stable and secure environment, development and better protection of human rights and individual freedoms. Therefore, security sector reform must be carefully implemented as part of a broader framework for conflict prevention and development. A common framework and a coherent system-wide approach are necessary to reinforce the ability to provide consistent, well-coordinated and relevant advice for security sector reform in peacekeeping or peacebuilding.

The role of the United Nations is to assist countries in building capacity to deliver enduring security through effective and resilient institutions. The countries concerned must determine the approach and priorities for security sector reform. Factors that greatly contribute to the success of that process are, first and foremost, political will and consensus of domestic stakeholders, as well as extensive consultations, involvement of relevant domestic and

international stakeholders, proper and well-executed strategies, coherence, good timing and long-term, predictable and sustained support.

Moreover, the success of security sector reform relies on national ownership, the quality of dialogue with recipient countries, the adaptability of tools for security sector reform, good coordination among relevant national and international partners, sensitivity to gender issues and involvement of civil society. None of these factors can be neglected, because only a combination of those elements can lead to the success and sustainability of security sector reform