

**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. Barros Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations.*

We thank you, Mr. Minister, and the presidency of Nigeria for convening this open debate to address the challenges and opportunities of security sector reform. I also thank the Secretary-General for his briefing and the report before us (S/2013/480).

The establishment of an effective, professional and accountable security sector is central to laying the foundations of peace and sustainable development. Security sector reform ultimately plays a fundamental role in strengthening the rule of law at the national level. It is therefore a key component of the peace process, in which we highlight the role played by the Peacebuilding Commission by including security sector reform programmes for countries on its agenda. Moreover, the Peacebuilding Fund, to which Chile contributes regularly, has resources that can be used in security sector reform or police training programmes. The number of Security Council mandates that incorporate this issue increased from 14 in 2008 to 37 in 2012, confirming that security sector reform has been fully integrated into peacekeeping, conflict prevention and development.

International cooperation is particularly relevant in ensuring that security sector reform processes can effectively and efficiently achieve its goals. There are numerous examples of collaboration with the United Nations and bilateral cooperation on security sector reform processes. We note that countries that were previously recipients of cooperation are now able to share their experiences and cooperate with others facing similar challenges. With regard to bilateral cooperation, since 1996 my country has run technical assistance programmes between our police and the National Police of Haiti, through which between 30 and 60 Haitian officers are trained every year.

Nonetheless, without detracting from the role of international cooperation, it is the responsibility of each State to guarantee security on its territory, and every State has the sovereign right and responsibility to determine its own national approach and national priorities with respect to security sector reform. This requires political will on the part of all parties involved in order to make progress in the establishment or strengthening of security institutions and mechanisms, and sufficient resources for implementation must be guaranteed.

Security sector reform processes must be consensual and inclusive, ensuring the participation of civil society, especially of women, both in policy discussion and formulation, and in the subsequent implementation. In this sense, the establishment of quotas for minority groups in security institutions promises to be a useful tool for ensuring the legitimacy of new institutions among populations. Such processes, in addition to being transparent, inclusive and participatory, should also be subject to the control and supervision of democratic institutions so as to ensure that they function in full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Security sector reform initiatives must also provide for accountability, avoid impunity and thereby promote national reconciliation processes, favouring the reconstitution of the social

fabric. In this regard, we believe that all such reform processes should incorporate expedited access to national courts and the International Criminal Court, in accordance with the principle of complementarity. We underscore the central role of the General Assembly in developing the approach of the United Nations in this area.

At the same time, the importance of coherent and integrated planning and implementation, including general guidelines, civilian capacity-building and strengthened mechanisms for coordination and cooperation with regional and subregional organizations in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. In this regard, we recognize the work of the inter-agency Security Sector Reform Task Force and its specialized units, both in the field and at Headquarters, and of the Security Sector Reform Unit of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. In this context, we underscore the importance of the United Nations security sector reform guidelines and policies, the human rights due diligence policy, and the comprehensive technical background notes on security sector reform.

I conclude by affirming that my country agrees with the presidential statement of 12 October 2011 that “the establishment of an effective, professional and accountable security sector is at the cornerstone peace and sustainable development” (*S/PRST/2011/19*).