

**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 Mrs. Hrdá Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations.

The Czech Republic fully shares the views expressed in the concept note (S/2014/238, annex) for today's debate. We thank the Nigerian presidency for having brought this critical issue to the attention of the Security Council and hope that the Security Council will continue to hold open debates on security sector reform (SSR) on a regular basis. We therefore welcome the draft resolution on SSR and hope that it will be adopted today. The Czech Republic would like to join others in announcing our co-sponsorship of the draft.

We agree that it is the responsibility of the Security Council as the body primarily responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security to ensure that the necessary priority be afforded to this critical role of the United Nations.

The Czech Republic fully aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union, and I would like to add the following remarks in our national capacity.

We consider SSR to be a key step in the transition from conflict to sustainable development. Successful SSR is possible only by adhering to the principles of national ownership and deepening cooperation with regional and subregional organizations and civil society. In this context, SSR emerged as a relevant concept addressing the core deficiencies of the State with the aim of improving not only State security but, in a broader sense, human security — that is to say, the security of every single human being within the society.

The Secretary-General's report of August 2013 (S/2013/480) clearly outlines the progress within the United Nations system on SSR, but it also shows that there is need for further improvement. In our view, SSR requires a holistic approach and all activities should be dealt with in a coherent and comprehensive manner. It is crucial to involve all parts of the United Nations system in this area. We therefore welcome the creation of the inter-agency Security Sector Reform Task Force, which covers all important departments of the United Nations Secretariat and its programmes. We also note other ways of deepening this cooperation by involving specialized United Nations agencies in the Task Force.

In conclusion, I would like to stress the active participation of the Czech Republic and Czech experts in several Common Security and Defence Policy missions, whose mandate included SSR — in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Afghanistan, the Horn of Africa and Mali. My country is also undertaking particular efforts to implement resolution 1325 (2000), on women, peace and security, as well as resolution 1612 (2005), on children affected by armed conflict.