

**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. Rakhmetullin Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations.

I thank you, Sir, for facilitating the strategic discussions on strengthening the approach of the United Nations to security sector reform (SSR). I also express my warm appreciation to the Secretary-General for his insightful report (S/2013/480) and recommendations on the way forward. As a member of the Group of Friends of SSR, Kazakhstan fully supports all efforts to enhance peace and security, which in turn lead to stable and enduring sustainable development.

SSR is gaining increasing importance for addressing war-torn areas and for countries emerging from conflict in Africa. It is therefore critical to understand the newer forms, patterns and manifestations of conflicts and insecurities. Immediate and medium- and long-term plans can be based only on understanding the root causes of conflicts — the accelerators, the triggers and their impacts. Hence, planning for SSR must be based on the current shift from State-centred security to citizen- or people-oriented security; the shift from purely military security to non-military centred security, such as food, environment and socioeconomic security; and the shift from State to non-State actors, with a larger number of stakeholders.

Recent political developments, which are taking a most tragic toll of human life, compel us to rethink how secure environments can be achieved as essential prerequisites for the protection of civilians, the rule of law, justice and respect for human rights. Our task becomes all the more challenging when United Nations peacekeeping operations and missions withdraw. Thus, far-sighted and comprehensive reform is headed, providing the vital framework for peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development, which are closely linked to the processes of demobilization, disarmament and reintegration. In addition, all national security policies and mechanisms must also be grounded in regional frameworks due to the transnational nature of security challenges.

No reform can take place without providing adequate, modern training in the new concepts of security and upgrading institutions of the military and, especially, the police so that human rights, rule of law and good governance can guide their operations. Recruitment policies should incorporate regional quotas, ethnic/tribal balance and appropriate gender mix, involving women and local communities. There must also be a reorientation of correctional services, customs and the judiciary, which are important components of the security system.

These overall efforts call for strengthening the capacity and political will of national authorities and institutions, through political dialogue, with context-specific policies, while also mobilizing the multiplicity of actors. Special consideration must be given to non-State actors, at the regional and international levels alike, interacting with governmental authorities. It is then obvious that new partnerships should be explored, requiring collaboration and commitment at all levels — from regional to international. At the same time, there has to be national ownership of security sector reform, which must be democratic and representative, as this increases confidence in and the legitimacy of security institutions, striking a balance between national security concerns and local needs. SSR must include research, lessons learned, monitoring, oversight and accountability mechanisms, benchmarks and indicators for thorough assessment.

In conclusion, Kazakhstan is determined to assist and support United Nations efforts to evolve SSR as a timely and effective to counteract numerous challenges, and we support the draft resolution before the Council.