

**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. Luksic Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the United Nations.

Allow me at the outset to congratulate the delegation of Nigeria on its successful conduct of the presidency of the Security Council this month. We thank the Secretary-General for his briefing and for his second report and recommendations on security sector reform (S/2013/480). Montenegro particularly welcomes this afternoon's adoption of a draft resolution that I am sure will provide for a strengthened United Nations role in support of the security sector reform (SSR) agenda.

Montenegro fully aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the observer of the European Union. I would like, however, to add some remarks in my national capacity. Seven years after the first Security Council presidential statement on this topic (S/PRST/2007/3), our understanding of security sector reform (SSR) has significantly evolved. We realize that SSR is not only about activities directed towards the professionalization of individual security pillars, such as police, defence, border management and civil emergency, inter alia. It is indeed much more. If we truly want to have an effective, legitimate and accountable security sector, we need to consider SSR within a broader, more comprehensive approach that should be consistent with the values and principles of democracy, the rule of law, good governance and respect for human rights.

The main objective of SSR is to help ensure that people feel safer. But if we wish to have safe and stable societies, because of their closely interconnected nature, we have to look at SSR through the prism of security and development. In that context, security threats must be tackled through joint efforts and in an integrated manner across the entire nexus of development, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, the rule of law and human rights. That will allow us to have societies with durable peace and in a position to gain from SSR efforts. Taking into account its vast accumulation of expertise and knowledge, the United Nations, through its inter-agency Security Sector Reform Task Force, is well positioned to provide such holistic and customized support to nationally led undertakings of member States. Moreover, as stated in the Secretary-General's latest report, "partnerships must be deepened and expanded given the increase in the number and type of actors providing support to security sector reform" (S/2013/480, p. 2). I would like to echo the message from today's draft resolution that security sector reform is critical to addressing impunity for grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, as that is a vital enabling factor for the success of SSR.

We could not agree more with the Secretary-General's assessment that "experience has shown that the viability of security sector reform efforts depends on the political environment in which reform is carried out" (*ibid.*). It is in that sense that inclusivity is one of the instrumental factors for the success of SSR. To be transformative and sustainable, SSR processes, with host Governments playing a primary role, need to promote inclusiveness, including in institution-building. That assumes the active engagement of national and local authorities, along with parliaments, communities, civil society, academia and women's groups. Only in that way will the political reforms be allowed to take root and open a space

for national dialogue, reconciliation efforts and other initiatives to develop. Focus also needs to be equally placed on transparency, accountability and effective management and oversight, with a view to strengthening the legitimacy and integrity of security institutions. Fully cognizant of this dynamic, Montenegro has been diligently working to improve the overall functioning of its security sector in order to be able to respond successfully to the threats of our age. Along with an intensive campaign and activities in the area of the rule of law as our national priority, we have undertaken further security and intelligence sector reforms. As a result, new legislation has recently been passed to ensure that the national security agency and military intelligence service operate in accordance with international standards and best practices.

Aware of contemporary challenges in the area of cyberterrorism, we are implementing a cybersecurity strategy for the period 2013-2017 and other cybersecurity-related regulations. The implementation of a law on parliamentary oversight of the security and defence sectors will further strengthen the legislative and oversight role of the Montenegrin Parliament. We also participate in the Building Integrity programme, which seeks to increase capacity to combat corruption in the security sector. Montenegro is also committed to the implementation of measures related to gender equality, with special emphasis on resolution 1325 (2000) as well as to training concerning gender-based violence.

Let me conclude by expressing our firm support for the full implementation of the first ever stand-alone resolution on SSR and to all efforts of the United Nations system, complemented by the activities of the Group of Friends of SSR, that aim to contribute to further advancing the concept of SSR within the United Nations and beyond.