

**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. Mwinyi Permanent Mission of Tanzania to the United Nations.

At the outset, allow me to join other speakers in welcoming His Excellency Mr. Aminu Wali, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, to New York. I would also like to thank you, Sir, for having convened this open debate. We extend our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his briefing on this important matter and his reports on this subject (S/2013/480).

This debate is extremely relevant to the work of the Security Council, whose role is not merely to respond to conflicts after they have unfolded but also to prevent them. Security sector reform (SSR) is among the many ways of safeguarding conflict-prone countries and ensuring post-conflict societies do not relapse into conflict, by building strong, transparent and accountable security sector institutions. This debate takes place hardly a week since Tanzania, Japan and the Slovak Republic held a seminar on inclusivity in rebuilding States, focusing on inclusivity in security sector reform. Tanzania pioneered the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission and strongly maintains its belief in the centrality of SSR in rebuilding post-conflict societies.

We wish to reiterate some of the issues that we deem absolutely important in advancing SSR, not only in societies emerging from conflicts, but in developing countries in general. First, let me address ownership. It is important that the country in question, where SSR is being undertaken, take full ownership of the process. Ownership entails more than consent. It is also about commitment and, most importantly, inclusivity. To attain the requisite legitimacy, the security sector reform process must involve all stakeholders, including youth, women, traditional leaders, religious leaders and civil society. It is also important that it involve former combatants after peace talks have been exhausted, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration has been accomplished and justice has been administered.

Secondly, on durability, it is of paramount importance that security sector reform be undertaken as an ongoing process rather than an event, particularly when implemented under the mandate of the Council. Post-conflict countries undertaking security sector reform must be assisted until they attain the capability to assist themselves. We also believe that sustainability in the security sector reform process can only be attained if the process is undertaken hand in hand with the development of the concerned countries.

Thirdly, on the involvement of regional actors, our involvement in peace processes over the past five decades has clearly demonstrated the importance of regional actors in conflict prevention, resolution, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. We encourage the international community and the countries concerned to make effective use of the enormous resources that we can offer to our neighbouring countries in terms of knowledge and skills in the area of security sector reform and others. After all, we aspire to the well-being of their nations and peoples, which is paramount for regional stability and development.

We note with great appreciation that such value is fully acknowledged in the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region, the full implementation of which by all stakeholders is poised to restore peace and stability in the Great Lakes region of Africa.