"Inclusivity in Rebuilding States: Focusing on Inclusivity in Security Sector Reform (SSR)

Seminar
Tuesday, April 22, 2014
9:30am - 1:00pm

Draft Concept Note

The Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, the Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations, and the Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations will host a seminar entitled "**Inclusivity in Rebuilding States: Focusing on Inclusivity in Security Sector Reform (SSR)"** at the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations.

There is a growing consensus that inclusive processes—in the political, economic, and social dimensions—are crucial in rebuilding post-conflict states. The report of the Secretary-General on "Peacebuilding in the aftermath of conflict", issued in October 2012(S/2012/746), emphasized the importance of inclusivity as a key component for the success of peacebuilding activities: "An inclusive process builds confidence among participating parties that their core objectives can be achieved through negotiation rather than violence. It is also more likely to address the root causes of conflict and increases the legitimacy and ownership of a political settlement. Inclusivity in this regard refers to the extent and manner in which the views and needs of parties to conflict and other stakeholders are represented, heard and integrated into a peace process."

Among the recurring challenges when considering inclusivity in post-conflict peacebuilding contexts are that while reaching a peace settlement might mostly involve a limited group of primary protagonists, evidence suggests that more inclusive

political settlements last longer. Reinforcing this trend over time calls for follow-up in the form of genuinely broad and inclusive political processes to consolidate peace and promote reconciliation. In short, peace settlements need to include the "people with the guns," but post-conflict peacebuilding also needs to include the "people without the guns" and the agents of peace to increase ownership, legitimacy and support for the political process and build a nation and develop a social contract.

One emerging lesson seems to be to approach institution building as a mechanism to foster inclusivity, social cohesion and national identity. As such, the process of inclusive institution building is as important as the outcome to ensure that efforts facilitate not only the building of a state, but also of a nation.

With regard to the importance of inclusivity in the context of SSR, the Report of the Secretary-General on "Securing States and societies: strengthening the United Nations comprehensive support to security sector reform," issued in August 2013 (S/2013/480), emphasized that "Support to security sector reform therefore needs to be better linked to broader political reforms that create the foundations for transformative processes such as national dialogue, reconciliation efforts or transitional justice initiative….This requires an inclusive and transparent approach to security sector reform based on dialogue between authorities and communities around security challenges and longer-term institution-building."

The objective of SSR is to help ensure that people feel safer. Improved quality of security services enhances the confidence between security institutions and the people they are entrusted to protect. A professional, effective and accountable security sector contributes to the foundations for peace and sustainable development.

In his reports on SSR issued in 2008 and 2013, the Secretary-General lies out four broad areas where the principle of 'inclusivity' is a key enabling factor for SSR:
1) SSR can only succeed through an inclusive and nationally led process in which national and local authorities, parliaments and civil society, including traditional leaders, women's groups and others, are actively engaged. The role of the UN and international actors is to strengthen the capacity of the host country to develop, manage and implement SSR through inclusive consultation processes. A key challenge is to ensure that SSR processes promote inclusiveness, *and* reflect the host Government's primary role.
2) Inclusivity relates also to the involvement of national stakeholders in negotiations on SSR-related dimensions of Security Council resolutions. Additional efforts need to

be made to ensure that Mission mandates more visibly incorporate the perspectives of the countries under consideration.

3) Inclusiveness in SSR requires also the extension of the policy debate to the regional level. Usually, the UN is only one of several actors providing support to SSR. Expanding and deepening partnerships particularly with regional and sub-regional organizations is important in shaping regional approaches to SSR, tailored to the specific needs of the region. The organization needs to further explore how discussions on regional approaches to SSR can be made more organic and increasingly draw upon South-South exchange.

4) In many contexts, non-State actors play an important role in delivering security and justice services. Yet, these actors can also undermine security and challenge the role and responsibility of the State. While the UN recognizes the relevance of those actors, it still needs to be discussed how best to engage them.

However, several critical questions remain to be discussed: To what extent should—and can—former wartime enemies be included in creating new security sectors in the process of post-conflict peacebuilding? Are there any conditions under which they should be excluded from security sectors? What could be the role of international organizations, such as the United Nations, in advancing an inclusive process to create new security sector institutions? How does one concretely translate national ownership and inclusive political processes in SSR contexts vis-à-vis actors that may lack legitimacy and representativeness, but that nevertheless exercise power?

The purpose of this seminar is to provide an opportunity for UN member state representatives, United Nations officials, academic experts, and NGOs to share experiences on the challenges of inclusivity in SSR in the process of post-conflict peacebuilding, and to discuss the lessons for future international efforts in rebuilding states.

Following an initial statement by **Mr. Dmitry Titov**, Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the seminar will feature a main speech by **Mr. Ian Martin,** former Special Representative of the Secretary-General in East Timor, Nepal, and Libya. The seminar then will have presentations by **Mr. Adedeji Ebo,** Chief in Security Sector Reform Unit in the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operation, as well as **Mr. Henk-Jan Brinkman,** Chief in Policy, Planning and Application Branch in the UN Peacebuilding Support Office. After their presentations, the panelists will engage with participants on how to understand lessons from past experiences and on ways to apply such lessons to current and future peace-negotiations and peacebuilding efforts.