delivered by the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic

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at a Seminar on Inclusivity in Rebuilding States:

Focusing on Inclusivity in Security Sector Reform (SSR)

Excellences,

Colleges,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all let me thank both the Government of Japan and Tanzania for inviting us to partner with them for this important event. Today's discussion will focus on the issue of an inclusive political dialogue as part of establishment of an SSR process. Ensuring consensus around a shared vision of the future state, a shared understanding on the role of security and justice actors and the relationship with the population, as well as a shared agreement on how to take forward reform, are all key to a sustainable and effective SSR process.

At the core of Security Sector Reform (SSR), is the notion that **our concept of security has evolved to include both the needs of the state but also the people** and that security is no longer provided solely through state (and predominantly military) actors. Rather, there are a multitude of actors (both state and non-state) who provide, manage and oversee security and justice services. The international community has valuable lessons from supporting SSR processes over the last two decades, and many of those lessons confirm that an inclusive approach is indispensable, if not a pre-requisite to, developing a durable, robust and effective SSR processes.

The fundamental element of an inclusive approach to SSR is **ensuring transparency and a culture of openness** that treats SSR as a public policy issue. Open and proactive information sharing can help to eliminate some of the barriers to active collaboration across Government and with civil society, especially by helping to demystify the scope and aims of the SSR process. In addition, proactive information sharing can also help to provide insight into what the real world constraints and limitations are in SSR, which can help to change the dynamics of dialogue from adversarial and mistrust to more productive and focused discourse on challenges.

Secondly, **capacity constraints** are a common impediment for developing inclusive approaches to SSR. Given the complexity of SSR, sufficient capacity is a pre-requisite for ensuring that relevant actors are able to engage in not only policy discourse but also the operational levels in programme design or even implementation processes. A balanced approach to addressing capacity constraints of all key stakeholders in SSR tends to also

improve the prospects of local ownership of the process, a common challenge in SSR. In this regard, ensuring that local actors and institutions are capacitated to play leading roles in implementation, at the technical and management levels, is crucial **to ensure that the SSR process does not become dependent on external support.**

SSR is a complex task that **requires a wide variety of skills, capacities, knowledge and experience.** Government departments or agencies need to be adequately prepared to provide all of the support required especially when considering that supporting security and justice reform is not only about the task of policing, of being a soldier, judge, parliamentarian or prosecutor, it is about how these institutions function, how they work with other government departments and how they engage with the public. In this regard, inclusive approaches should seek to engage actors that have a relative skill-set advantage and can contribute needed know-how to enhance the reform process, especially in commonly neglected areas of SSR such as public finance management, human resources or decentralization.

Inclusive approaches are not a natural by-product of SSR, rather inclusive approaches **can only be developed through deliberate and concerted efforts to build the necessary mechanisms of coordination and collaboration,** regularized dialogue, and mutually-reinforcing partnerships. In this regard, there have been positive trends in SSR towards inclusive consultative processes to develop key guiding SSR policies or white papers on defence (this includes South Africa, Guinea, and most recently Libya).

One aspect of an inclusive approach is to also ensure that dialogue and programme implementation **reflects geographic balance**, **urban and rural stakeholders** being given a voice, **but also gender, vulnerable and marginalized groups** and **ethnic minorities** are given adequate opportunities to also contribute to policy debates, management decisions, as well as oversight.

Last but not least, another aspect is **continuing an inclusive dialogue within the UN system**: Our UN Group of Friends on SSR, that Slovakia co-chairs together with South Africa, is a unique vehicle to facilitate such dialogue and make sure that the SSR concept continues to be developed at the level of the UN, but also beyond – translating to policies of other international organisations, notably the EU, African Union, but also others. The Slovak Republic, together with our partners, will also continue in promoting SSR in the wider international framework. We already make plans for more regional activities in this regard – in cooperation with the World Bank, the African Union and Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Establishing an inclusive approach to SSR requires that we both advocate for open and substantive dialogue on SSR to address political issues in SSR but also to ensure that we invest technical and financial support to solve technical barriers to multidisciplinary approaches to SSR. Truly inclusive approaches to SSR take time to build and quality and methodology of the process is as equally important as the short term outputs that are produced.

Thank you very much for your attention.