



ENGLISH only

**Statement of the Slovak Republic on support of the Security Sector Reform and Governance (Closing Session)
Ministerial Council, December 5, 2014, Basel**

Dear Mr. President,

Slovakia as a Chair of the Informal Group of Friends of Security Sector Governance and Reform, would like to make the following statement, also on behalf of: *Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Finland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Mongolia, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Tunisia:*

“We believe that an effective and accountable security sector without discrimination and with full respect for human rights, the rule of law, as well as for fundamental principles of good governance, is a cornerstone of peace, sustainable development, and the provision of security for the benefit of everyone.

The Slovak Republic jointly with other states commends the Swiss and the Serbian chairmanship for their much appreciated efforts and leadership to keep the topic of Security Sector Governance and Reform high on the OSCE’s agenda.

We applaud the efforts of the OSCE executive structures and in particular of the Secretary General in strengthening the coherence of the organisation’s support in the important field of Security Sector Governance and Reform. The recommendations of the mapping exercise completed in 2013 were most useful in identifying ways to enhance the OSCE’s efforts in this area.

In this regard, we particularly welcome the launch of the development of internal guidelines for staff of the OSCE executive structures and we are confident that they will add great value to the organisation’s SSG/R related activities. The first set of guidelines will focus on cross-dimensional approaches, regional approaches, comprehensive needs-assessments, and sustainable and impact-oriented approaches.

Furthermore, we also commend the efforts aimed at increasing exchanges of best practices and lessons learned with other international organizations, particularly with the UN. Such co-operation will contribute to the efforts of reinvigorating the OSCE’s role as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter.

We are convinced, that the continuous efforts will bear fruit and that the work towards more coherence will result in enhanced effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of the organisation’s work. I invite other delegations to join our activities in the open-ended Group of Friends and to support the ongoing endeavours.”

I would like to ask you, Mr. Chairman, to kindly attach my statement to the journal of the day.