

Presentation for the OSCE Chairmanship Workshop on Post-Conflict Rehabilitation:
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TAKING STOCK OF LESSONS LEARNED, RECRUITMENT & ROSTERS AND TRAINING IN PEACEBUILDING WITH A VIEW TOWARD RECENT INITIATIVES OF OSCE PARTICIPATING STATES

Mr. Stefan Tinca

Director of the Training Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction, Romania

I. Romania's vision

- The world we live in is changing at an ever increasing pace. Beside the shifts noticeable at a strategic level, this impacts more and more directly upon our immediate domestic environment. It has become almost a truism to emphasize how our globalised society presents us with ever more, new and increasingly complex challenges.
- International community has to thoroughly rethink its approach and reconsider its instruments for external action. Chiefly, there is an urgent need for reassessing and modernizing some of the main pillars of traditional foreign action, especially in the area of civilian crisis management.
- A particular emphasis falls on the recognition of the fact that “success cannot be achieved by military means alone” and an “increased coordination among key international stakeholders in Afghanistan, working in a comprehensive approach involving both civilian and military actors” is to be pursued.
- The Afghan experience, but many others, including in Europe, provides us with the empirical arguments for asserting that nowadays one of the essential tools of any relevant foreign action lies with one's capacity of running successful conflict prevention, stabilisation and post-conflict reconstruction operations. This emerging external action toolkit is increasingly gaining prominence for two main reasons.
- Firstly, because the epicentres of most security challenges our world faces today are to be found within fractured societies or failing states. The adequate remedy is thus to deal with their root causes in a comprehensive manner. Faced with most of today's conflicts, the military can deliver quick solutions in a short time, but they are not really apt to deal with the diffuse and sensitive nature of the sources that generate most crises. Additionally, the public opinion does not generally support the imposition of an exclusively military resolution to any given situation. Therefore, if we are to get sustainable and fair results, we have to lean more and more upon diplomacy and development aid.
- Secondly, civilian crisis management is also standing out because the capacity for conflict prevention, stabilisation and post-conflict reconstruction may be the best force multiplier in our soft power toolkit. One can hardly think of a more effective way of using the resources at our disposal than the ability of preventing a crisis from breaking out. Thus, “smart power” has become the name of the game, and conflict resolution one of the main vectors around which the process of streamlining and reforming modern diplomacy takes place.
- International efforts of reconstruction, particularly of post-conflict reconstruction, are not however an invention of our age. One can recall the Marshall Plan, the post-World War II

programme which helped rebuild Western Europe. Not even the more recently civilian-military complex relationship is not that new: George C. Marshall was a general, his plan was primarily civilian.

- The importance of conflict resolution as an instrument of modern external action, and the urgent need for rethinking and strengthening the capacity for crisis management are the context in which the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has launched the initiative of establishing a dedicated Training Centre for Post-conflict Reconstruction - CeFoR.
- Romania already plays a significant part in the international efforts of conflict resolution and civilian crisis management. This contribution has gained an increased significance as, joining the EU, Romania's civilian capabilities assumed the policy framework and objectives of CSDP. Romania thus ranks amongst the main EU contributors with civilian capabilities to CSDP operations, most of which have a significant post-conflict reconstruction dimension (EULEX Kosovo, EUPM, EUMM Georgia, EUPOL Afghanistan etc.). Our largest contribution can be found within ISAF: as proof of our political commitment and reliability, the Romanian military contingent deployed in Southern Afghanistan has more than done its bit and had its share. Building on this, and in order to multiply the effects of our participation, we are joining the camp of those advancing the idea of a crisis management interagency capability, with an emphasis on civilian capacities.
- We also seek to achieve further improvement through a more structured approach in the area of deployment, particularly with regard to personnel training and the process of generating mission specific resources. The Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has long facilitated sharing conflict resolution knowledge and experience through regular training courses and international seminars and conferences. It has also been increasingly acknowledged as a regional pole of expertise in peace operations.
- The methodical use of present capabilities and the development of new capacities within the civilian crisis management area, at a level comparable with that of other contributors (particularly EU and NATO Member States), can create an opportunity for Romania to become a centre for excellence in this area.
- In the MFA/ at the CeFoR, we believe it important to carry on the project of providing adequate training and assessing the current state of development within the field of reconstruction, and to begin the process of thinking on the added value that a centre for training experts in this field would bring. In a world defined by networks and systems of systems, it has become essential to create and make the most of synergies between partners. I am confident that such a centre can become a nexus for our common conceptual and operational efforts.

II. Elements for possible OSCE role in post-conflict rehabilitation

- In post-conflict rehabilitation the OSCE does not start from scratches. OSCE in itself was conceived as a tool in achieving lasting peace and comprehensive security within its geographical scope. That is maybe the reason why many of its post-crisis and post-conflict rehabilitation responses bear the sign of this distinctive feature: beyond trying to assist in addressing the immediate consequences of crises or conflicts, it tried to tailor and refine its assistance to a preventive function built on the understanding that addressing causes of tensions is the most viable way to deal with the rehabilitation that should come in their aftermath.
- Within last years debates under the Corfu Process and various retreat formats, post-conflict rehabilitation was singled out as a potential area where synergies deriving from coordination and cooperation *performed at a regional level* can result in increased inter-operability. There

were even suggestions (by the academia) that *the UN Peace-building Commission* could serve as a point of inspiration for a similar arrangement at regional level, to be undertaken by the OSCE.

- The internal exercise devoted to strengthening OSCE's niche of action in post-conflict can help the OSCE re-gain its profile of a reliable contributor in relevant efforts undertaken globally. The OSCE's comprehensive approach to security is a comparative advantage that distinguishes this Organization regionally among other actors. It can make a difference in the field. It can also recommend OSCE as a credible load-sharer in efforts undertaken globally to ensure peace and security within the OSCE regional scope.
- The Charter for European Security with its Platform for Co-operative Security adopted in 1999 was an important expression of our acknowledgement of the need to strengthen co-operation between the OSCE and other international organizations and institutions, thereby making better use of the resources of the international community.
- In the wider peace-building community the OSCE has a subtle advantage through its comprehensive approach to security. I would refer back to perhaps one of the most common axiomatic considerations for this Organization, namely that violations of human rights in particular are strong indicators of incipient conflicts and that if left undressed, they eventually lead to crises or conflicts. At such junctures, the OSCE assistance can serve multiple tasks: certain functions on monitoring ceasefire agreements meant to prevent an immediate heat up of conflicts; it can facilitate contacts/mediation/reconciliation between the parties with the aim of re-establishing trust; it can help address the immediate consequences of the conflicts; it can design and promote non-military confidence building measures or at the same time offer qualified assistance in addressing root causes. This is one of the most valuable, structural and viable forms of assistance that can be rendered. This is a fact easily recommending the OSCE as a reliable burden-sharing of efforts to be undertaken at a regional level to rehabilitate societies in the aftermath of crises or conflicts. In a context where there is tendency to operate thematically the distribution of tasks among different actors, the OSCE is by virtue of its capacities and vocation well placed to help re-establish a durable and comprehensive security in post-crisis and post-conflict rehabilitation.

III. Romanian contribution to OSCE debates

- As a contribution to the Corfu Process Romania together with other seven participating States has sought to invite to exploring ways to consolidate the OSCE's role in building comprehensive peace in the aftermath of conflicts through a FFTP on "*Ideas on civilian operations/missions to improve the OSCE response in post-crisis and post-conflict rehabilitation*".
- The initiative seeks rather to put together in an integrated and streamlined manner the functions and type of activities that the OSCE has successfully performed over the years in a rather *ad hoc* fashion, as individual responses to urgent political imperatives. The proposal aims at assembling them in a kind of *start-up guide of validated functions that the OSCE can perform in post-conflict*.
 - ❖ Consistent with this approach, drawing up a compilation of OSCE's activities of post-conflict rehabilitation and peace support would be a valuable contribution to the Corfu process and a catalyst for OSCE's outreach to other peacebuilding actors. It would eventually help strengthening international collaboration.
- The approach envisaged by our initiative is comprehensive, as is the nature of the challenges in post-crisis and post-conflict situations.

- Essentially it is a kind of preventive exercise since it seeks to address root causes and consequences of crises/conflicts in order to prevent renewed eruptions or outbursts. It seeks to capitalize on the already developed OSCE's unique functions in facilitation, confidence-building and conflict resolution, in an integrated manner.

On the defining elements for the initiative, core elements are:

- Building upon deploying OSCE's civilian operations/missions in the areas affected by crisis or conflicts
- In view of the rather long term approach required by post-crisis or post-conflict rehabilitation - adoption by consensus of decisions on deployment and prolongation of such operations/missions should be secured
- Pending the peculiarities of individual crises and conflict, OSCE relevant decision making bodies can adopt decisions tailored to them.
 - Coordination and cooperation with other actors present on the ground
 - Possible areas to address: root causes that generated the crisis/conflict; assistance in re-establishing trust through facilitating contacts/mediation/reconciliation between the parties; designing and promotion of non-military CBMs.
 - Other concrete tasks can be envisaged on assistance in institution building and reform, ethnic relations, democratization, rule of law; supporting, if required, the political negotiations for a final arrangement, etc.

This could build upon the already existing expertise the OSCE has developed in civilian police type activities and an unarmed military component could be also envisaged to cover other aspects of security, such as those relating to ceasefire agreements, withdrawal of armed forces or return of forces to levels before an armed conflict.