



**Statement of the Slovak Republic on support of the Security Sector Reform and Governance (Closing Session)
Ministerial Council, 4 December, 2015, Belgrade**

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Slovakia, in its capacity as Chair of the 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, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Finland, Germany, Hungary, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Tunisia.*

“A broad and comprehensive approach to security and continuous efforts towards an effective and accountable security sector with respect to human rights that is able to efficiently address current security challenges, including terrorism, illegal migration, and other emerging threats of common concern to all participating States, are of instrumental importance in the OSCE area and its neighbouring regions.

The Slovak Republic jointly with other states, recalling the statement on Security Sector Governance and Reform at the 2014 Ministerial Council in Basel, commends the consecutive Serbian and Swiss Chairmanship for their much appreciated efforts and leadership to keep the topic of Security Sector Governance and Reform high on the OSCE's agenda. The OSCE-wide conference on Security Sector Reform and Governance in April this year in Belgrade, organized as an event of the Serbian Chairmanship, constitutes an excellent example and highlights the large support by participating States. The conference also noted that more must be done to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the OSCE approach to SSR.

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 field of security sector governance and reform. In particular, we welcome the development of a first set of internal guidelines, as well as tailored training on their implementation for staff of the OSCE executive structures. These guidelines will constitute an important tool to pursue a more coherent and co-ordinated approach to supporting nationally-led Security Sector Governance and Reform processes.

Furthermore, we also commend the efforts aimed at increasing coordination and collaboration with other international and regional organizations. We particularly welcome OSCE's inclusion in a mapping exercise conducted by the UN on the engagements of international organizations in the areas of Security Sector Governance and Reform. This inclusion shows that the OSCE is increasingly seen as an actor in the area of Security Sector Governance and Reform among international actors.

Looking back, I am pleased to see that the informal Group of Friends has grown steadily since its launch on 30 June 2014 and now comprises of 24 members. The Group has served as an active platform for discussion on Security Sector Governance and Reform

among participant States. Looking ahead it could facilitate and support assistance efforts for requesting OSCE participating States, for example through the projects of the OSCE field missions, or support assistance efforts to Partners for cooperation, in the field of awareness raising and capacity building in the area of SSG/R.

We are convinced that the current debates within the OSCE and among participating States towards finding a more coherent approach to Security Sector Governance and Reform will provide us with valuable insights with regards to the challenges of our current security environment.”