



Statement from the Co-chairs of the Group of Friends of Security Sector Reform on the 22 October 2025 Meeting of the Group of Friends

On Wednesday 22 October 2025, the United Nations Group of Friends of Security Sector Reform (SSR) met at an Ambassadorial-level to discuss the future of United Nations support to SSR, including in the context of the United Nations Programme of Action on SSR, the ‘Review on the Future of All Forms of United Nations Peace Operations’, and UN80. The meeting featured a dedicated segment on SSR in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where National Security Advisor Mr. Désiré-Cashmir Eberande Kolongele highlighted President Tshisekedi’s leadership in advancing nationally led, context-specific reform, with MONUSCO support, with relevance for the future of UN peace operations.

The UN Charter is clear: security is central to the Organization’s principal purpose. Security is a *precondition* for peace, and *without* security, sustainable development “cannot be realized”, according to Agenda 2030.¹

SSR, which should result in effective and accountable security, is this principal purpose in action. In this respect, the Security Council has recognized the importance of SSR “in the stabilization and reconstruction of States in the aftermath of conflict” and “in peacebuilding and sustaining peace” ([S/RES/2553](#)) and the General Assembly has stressed that the “establishment of an effective, professional and accountable security sector is a crucial element for laying the foundation for durable peace and development” ([A/74/19](#)).

The Inter-agency SSR Task Force’s system-wide, multi-year (2026-2030) Programme of Action on SSR aims to help post-conflict and developing countries deliver effective and accountable security through SSR. It provides an excellent framework for collective action, which could help ensure the greatest possible impact for the least possible cost. In this respect, we urge all Members of the Group of Friends to support the initiative, whether politically in relevant bodies, with human resources, or with extra-budgetary funding. We would also like to call on Friends of SSR to ensure that SSR features meaningfully in relevant Security Council resolutions, as well as in the proceedings and recommendations of the Peacebuilding Commission.

With respect to the ‘Review on the Future of All Forms of United Nations Peace Operations’ requested by the Pact of the Future, we recall that “failure of Peace Operations to make progress on SSR undermines mission progress on every other indicator and damages the reputation and credibility of the United Nations itself”². Moreover, we recall the Security Council’s reminder that central to the gradual withdrawal and exit of peacekeeping operations, is “the establishment

¹ A/RES/70/1

² [Towards Better Security Governance: Learning from the Road Travelled. An independent review of United Nations support to security sector reform in peace operations, from 2014–2020](#) (2022)

of representative, effective and accountable security sector governance” and that “development of sustainable capacities of national security institutions able to fulfil their responsibilities to protect all civilians is central to the transition ”.³ As evidenced time and time again in numerous countries, a peace operation’s departure can only be successful when the host country’s security institutions are ready to take full responsibility for providing people-centered security. We therefore call on both the Security Council and the Secretary-General to ensure that SSR remains ‘core business’ for peace operations, especially those tasks linked to immediate security provision, stabilization, protection of civilians, restoration and extension of State authority and to the timely withdrawal of the peace operation itself. We also call on the Secretary-General to strengthen SSR as a critical priority for transition planning and to help Member States understand both the possibility and value of continued United Nations SSR support following the departure of the United Nations peace operations.

Regarding the ongoing UN80 process, the Programme of Action has strategic implications for the initiative: it provides a timely, Member State and United Nations-common system-wide perspective on areas for reform in the field of SSR. We call on the Secretary-General to take the Programme of Action into consideration in the UN80 initiative.

We also reiterate the Group of Friends’ earlier calls for Member States to “Expand the scope of the SSR debate and ensure that it benefits from the perspectives and experiences of the organization’s vast and diverse membership, including the General Assembly, the Peacebuilding Commission, and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).⁴”

On the DRC, we commend the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the establishment of a National SSR Commission and the emerging National Security Policy. Building on such positive examples, we encourage all Member States to actively pursue South-South cooperation to exchange good practices and adaptable SSR models, promote mutual learning, and enhance national capacities to devise context-specific approaches to reform.

We also welcome the Democratic Republic of the Congo’s commitment to embedding SSR within broader political processes and strengthening its national security architecture to address evolving challenges. To support these efforts, we call on all Member States to actively engage in support of sustainable SSR in the DRC, thus contributing to the consolidation of peace. We encourage the Secretary-General to continue leveraging the United Nations’ system-wide capacities and partnerships to support inclusive dialogue and strategic advisory services that advance nationally owned, sustainable security sector reform.

³ S/RES/2553

⁴ Statement by the Group of Friends of Security Sector Reform at the SDG 16 High-Level Conference on ‘Peace, Justice and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development’ (6 May 2024)