



Statement by Slovakia
Ambassador Oľga Algayerová
OSCE Annual Security Review Conference
“Bolstering the OSCE’s conflict cycle toolbox”
30 June 2016

Mr. Chairman,

Slovakia subscribes itself to the statement presented by the EU. We also welcome the presentation of Ms Heidi Grau and Brigadier General Rio. Allow me in my national capacity to contribute to the discussion on the conflict cycle toolbox with a few ideas which could strengthen the way ahead in the area of prevention and rehabilitation of the conflicts.

Slovakia, together with Switzerland, Serbia and other participating States, has been in recent years promoting comprehensive, systematic and coordinated approaches to Security Sector Governance and Reform within the OSCE. The OSCE is one of the largest and most comprehensive regional security organizations. It has developed effective structures and possesses a bulk of ministerial decisions, which all together can be a prerequisite for strengthening its role in conflict prevention, crisis management and post conflict rehabilitation. SSG/R has an important role to play when we speak about prevention of outbreaks of conflicts from the very beginning. Via its commitments the OSCE recognizes that only accountable and democratically controlled providers and institutions can ensure that States are able to cope with the present challenges and future threats.

We have together with our relevant partners recognized the crucial role of the SSG/R for promoting peace and stability. Security institutions which are resilient, capable, inclusive and accountable need effective and reliable security and sectorial reform processes. And this seems and has proven to be crucial. We believe that only such institutions can together with accountable management of threats address emerging security challenges and may be a prerequisite to avoid conflicts and crisis situations. Current challenges as organized crime, migration, border management issues, terrorisms, etc. do not leave us to fall asleep. We are convinced that SSG/R is very pragmatic and target oriented way to strengthen our common conflict prevention capacities. Countries that have deficiencies in SSG/R or have been failing to follow SSG/R may easily fall into violence. Therefore SSG/R is widely recognized as a conflict prevention mechanism. Through SSG/R we strive for strengthening of national security through effective and trusted institutions. These institutions must be well managed and all particular reforms in different sectors implemented (justice, police, rule of law etc.). But I have to stress the necessity of the national ownership of the overall process.

Many times we have asked ourselves where potentially we see the role of the OSCE. The OSCE has a distinguished role in prevention of conflicts, one of the most important tasks, contributing to the stability and regional security. Through its structures, including field missions it has been involved in many activities, as police, justice reforms, border management, etc. It is much cheaper to contribute to prevention of conflicts than to their resolution and following rehabilitation. The OSCE has adopted several ministerial decisions and particular documents which call on participating States to follow principles of good security governance while respecting fundamental human rights and freedoms.

Allow me to highlight lately introduced OSCE Guidelines on SSG/R that were launched in April. The guidelines provide OSCE staff with practical guidance on their support to nationally-led SSG/R processes with the goal that the overall efforts of the organization in the area of SSG/R are planned and implemented in a more coherent and coordinated manner. They provide practical advice and examples to strengthen multidimensional approaches, to strengthen regional co-operation as well as to plan and implement in a comprehensive and sustainable way. In order to support the implementation of the Guidelines among OSCE staff members there has been developed also a training which is offered to interested field missions at a regional or national level and will be adapted to the particularities of each context.

As a practical example of SSG/R activities I would like to point to a regional SSG/R seminar which is taking place in Bishkek (28-30 June). The seminar brings together representatives from the OSCE field missions in Central Asia, from international and regional partners, including different UN agencies, as well as representatives from Central Asian States. A similar workshop will take place later this year in South Eastern Europe. This kind of activities help not only the participants but following the whole international community to better understand and thus better implement good governance and reform of the security sector.

Ladies and gentleman,

OSCE constitutes an excellent forum for discussions on Security Sector Governance and Reform activities. Its field operations through which the OSCE has also collected a very rich knowledge of regional security contexts, good and well informed SSG/R can and shall be implemented.

At the end of my statement allow me to accentuate the work of the Group of Friends on SSG/R. Our overall aim, together with other 25 members of the Group, is to raise awareness about the SSG/R, its important role for overall security and through concrete results to promote an effective work of the secretariat and field missions in the area of SSG/R. It is essential to contribute to the stability and security in the OSCE region and to avoid any conflicts that might occur in the future. And SSG/R is very well suited for that.

Dear colleagues, cooperation with other international organizations is very important for our work. Therefore I would like to invite you to the next meeting of Group of Friends, on 5 July at 14,00, which will see a presentation of UNODC with the presence of the Executive Director of UNODC Mr. Yury Fedotov. You are very welcome to participate.

Thank you for your attention.
