



## *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*

**16th Supplement**

**2008-2009**

Department of Political Affairs - Security Council Affairs Division  
Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch

### **Part I - Overview of Security Council activities in the maintenance of international peace and security**

#### **39A. Maintenance of international peace and security: role of the Security Council in supporting security sector reform**

##### **Overview**

During the period under review, the Security Council held two consecutive meetings on 12 May 2008, one to hear briefings on the role of the United Nations in security sector reform and the other to issue a presidential statement on the importance of and the need for continued engagement of the United Nations in supporting security sector reform (SSR).

##### **Key Developments**

###### **12 May 2008: Presidential statement calling for an integrated United Nations approach to security sector reform**

On 12 May 2008, the Council heard briefings by the Secretary-General, who presented his report on the topic,<sup>1</sup> and three other briefers. Emphasizing the sovereign right and responsibility of countries in implementing SSR, all briefers recognized the importance of coordinated support by the United Nations in sustaining the SSR process. The representative of Slovakia, whose country had introduced the topic of SSR to the Council's agenda in 2007, pointed out the need for continued United Nations capacity

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<sup>1</sup>S/2008/39.

building in SSR. The representative of South Africa emphasized that the new concept of security included not only military aspects but also political, cultural and socio-economic dimensions, as agreed upon in the Cape Town Workshop, held jointly with Slovakia, on 7-8 November 2007.<sup>2</sup> He furthermore held that SSR implied an all-inclusive process addressing the needs of the people, in particular those of marginalized groups in society. The Chairman of the Peace Building Commission (Japan) noted that PBC could be a valuable forum for coordinated efforts by all relevant actors on the basis of integrated strategies.<sup>3</sup>

Later that day, the Council issued a presidential statement (S/PRST/2008/14) underlining the importance of continued United Nations engagement in SSR and the need for a holistic and coherent United Nations approach. The Council underlined that United Nations support to SSR must take place within a broad framework of the rule of law. It also recognized the importance of continued close cooperation and partnerships with non-United Nations actors, in particular regional, subregional and other intergovernmental organizations.

## Meetings

**Number of meetings: 2 (open)**

**Number of decisions: 1 PRST**

Meeting and Date	Sub-item	Other documents	Invitations	Speakers	Decisions (Vote: for-against-abstain)
5889 12 May 2008	Report of the Secretary-General on securing peace and development: the role of the United Nations in supporting security sector		<b>Rule 37:</b> Slovakia (Minister of Foreign Affairs) <b>Rule 39:</b> Chairman of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)	Secretary General, Slovakia, South Africa ( Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs), and Chairman of PBC	

<sup>2</sup> See the letter dated 20 November 2007 from the representatives of Slovakia and South Africa for more details on the Workshop (S/2007/687).

<sup>3</sup> S/PV.5889.

<b>Meeting and Date</b>	<b>Sub-item</b>	<b>Other documents</b>	<b>Invitations</b>	<b>Speakers</b>	<b>Decisions (Vote: for-against-abstain)</b>
	reform (S/2008/39)				
5890 12 May 2008	Report of the Secretary-General on securing peace and development: the role of the United Nations in supporting security sector reform (S/2008/39)				S/PRST/2008/14