

A Newsletter from the SSR Team

The Security Sector Reform (SSR) Team, headed by Mr. Adedeji Ebo (eboa@un.org), within the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions of the United Nations (UN) Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) is launching the first issue of the **SSR Newsletter**. Published on a quarterly basis, the SSR Newsletter is aimed at providing an update on recent activities of the SSR Team and an overview of upcoming initiatives, in addition to sharing relevant information and announcements.

Field Missions Thirsty for SSR Support

As its first priority, the SSR Team is focusing on providing support to peacekeeping operations and other UN actors as requested, which are assisting local authorities in their SSR efforts. Requests for SSR support have increased steadily in recent years, and the SSR Team is investing its resources and expertise in responding to them.

In the first three months of 2009, the SSR Team participated in the UN technical assessment missions on **Somalia** and in **Burundi**, supported the work of the UN Office for **West Africa** on the specific issue of security and elections, and led a small inter-agency team to **Southern Sudan** to assess UN coordination challenges in the justice and security sectors and to guide the establishment of a coordination cell. In addition, the SSR Team continuously provided guidance and support to its colleagues in **Côte d'Ivoire**, the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, **Guinea-Bissau**, **Liberia**, **Nepal**, and **Timor-Leste**.

SSR Guidance: A Priority for 2009

Upon the request of UN staff in the field and at headquarters, as well as the UN Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34), the SSR Team, as chair of the inter-agency SSR Task Force, held further discussions at UN headquarters on the development of common UN standards and guidance in the area of SSR. This led to the drafting of terms of reference which will shape the development of **technical guidance notes** in twelve specific areas:

- risks and threat assessments;
- security sector reviews;
- SSR and peace agreements;
- SSR and stabilization;
- national security policies, strategies and plans;
- defence sector reform (for further information on defence sector reform, contact Lt. Col. Mario Panizza at panizza@un.org);
- governance and oversight of the security sector;
- management of the security sector;
- linkages between SSR and the rule of law;
- linkages between SSR and DDR;
- development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of SSR programmes; and
- international coordination of SSR support.

Working collaboratively and with the support of leading research organizations, the SSR Task Force members aim to develop brief interim guidance notes before the end of 2009, and to expand them into full-fledged guidance notes in the course of 2010 to form a SSR Working Manual for SSR practitioners.

New SSR Partnership with the African Union

At the African Regional Workshop on SSR held in Addis Ababa on 23 and 24 March, the African Union (AU) Commission and the UN Secretariat agreed to embark on a mutually beneficial **partnership in the area of SSR**. In this partnership, the UN will work with the AU towards the development and implementation of a comprehensive policy framework on SSR, including through a five-year plan jointly designed by the AU and the UN.

In addition to the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, the Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions in DPKO, Mr. Dmitry Titov, and the Chargé d'affaires of the Embassy of Canada, Mr. Edmond Wega, participants in this event included representatives from the African regional economic communities, and SSR experts from AU and UN missions in Burundi, Liberia and Southern Sudan



ASG Titov and Commissioner Lamamra in Addis Ababa, 23 March

Working-level colleagues of the AU Commission and SSR Team also held a working session on 25 March focused on the content and roadmap of the AU's emerging SSR policy and identified a number of joint activities which will form the basis of a long-term strategic partnership between the AU and the UN in the area of SSR. These may include joint SSR needs assessments, human resource development in AU Headquarters and the field, SSR training and awareness-raising, joint policy development and other strategic activities.

SSR Training Ready to Roll

On behalf of the SSR Task Force, the SSR Team is leading on developing **SSR sensitization and training courses**. The first sessions will be delivered to UN Headquarters staff on 20, 21 and 23 April in New York. In the short-term, the SSR Team is developing and will deliver brief sensitization courses aimed at introducing participants to key terminology, concepts and experiences, as well as to the UN's emerging approach on SSR.

In the medium- to longer-term, the SSR Team will develop and deliver advanced courses at UN Headquarters and in the field, aimed at building the skills of participants in SSR methodologies, practices and tools, and in priority guidance areas. To learn more or express interest in one of the upcoming training sessions, write to Mr. Jared Rigg at rigg@un.org.

A Roster of Senior Experts on SSR

As an important step towards establishing a deployable human resource capacity to support national SSR efforts, the SSR Team is compiling a **roster of qualified senior experts** who would be available for rapid deployment on a short-term consultancy basis. Inclusion of an expert on this Roster does not imply any obligation by

either the UN or the experts on the Roster. Subject to suitability and availability, experts included on the Roster could potentially be deployed on specific assignments that may range from one week to approximately three months, and would work closely with the SSR Team at the UN Headquarters and, where applicable, with the SSR unit in the field.

The SSR Team is seeking candidates with a minimum of 10 years of progressively responsible experience in SSR. All interested candidates should submit their curriculum vitae or Personal History Profile by e-mail to Ms. Annamaria Scuderi at scuderi@un.org. Applications will then be reviewed and the first wave of successful candidates will be notified of their short-listing on the Roster after 31 May. Applications are received and assessed on a continuous basis and a call for applications shall be repeated at regular intervals. More information on the Roster and the process can be obtained from Mr. Jérôme Mellon at mellon@un.org.

Learning from SSR Lessons and Best Practices

The SSR Team has made steady progress in creating a repository of useful **SSR lessons and best practices** that can assist UN colleagues in developing, implementing and evaluating SSR programmes.

Commissioned by the SSR Team on behalf of the SSR Task Force, the Henry L. Stimson Center prepared a web-based compendium of lessons learned and best practices from a range of governments, international organizations and non-governmental



organizations covering, to date, six priority areas:

- defence sector reform;
- SSR and stabilization;
- threat assessments and reviews;
- national security policies, strategies and plans;
- governance and oversight of the security sector; and
- security sector management.

A consolidated report on SSR best practices and lessons is expected to be published by March 2010 and for more information, contact Ms. Kristiana Powell at powellk@un.org.

Coming Soon...

- The SSR Team will take part in field visits to **Guinea-Bissau** (20 April to 1 May), **Liberia** (27 April to 6 May) and **Timor-Leste** (June).
- The SSR Team will participate in a seminar on UN cooperation with the **European Union** (EU) on SSR in New York (21 May) and will take part in the UN-EU Steering Committee meeting in Brussels (24 and 25 June).
- The SSR Team will also participate in the conference on **Enhancing Global Rule of Law Assistance** in New York (20 and 21 April), in the 8th **International Security Forum** in Geneva (18 to 20 May), and in a regional workshop on UN support to SSR in **Latin America and the Caribbean** to be held in Buenos Aires (6 and 7 July).