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Subject:	Council conclusions on EU-wide strategic framework to support Security Sector Reform (SSR)
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Delegations will find attached the Council conclusions on EU-wide strategic framework to support Security Sector Reform (SSR), as adopted by the Council on 14 November 2016.

**COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON
EU-WIDE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK TO SUPPORT
SECURITY SECTOR REFORM (SSR)**

1. Recalling new ambitions reflected in the Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy as well as the aim of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, the Council endorses the Joint Communication "Elements for an EU-wide strategic framework to support Security Sector Reform (SSR)".
2. The Council recognises that SSR provides foundations contributing to the establishment of effective democratic control and accountability of the security sector and is therefore relevant in all contexts - including stable ones - to improve governance and human security, and throughout the whole conflict cycle. SSR is a key component of conflict prevention by addressing potential crisis factors, as well as of crisis management and conflict resolution, post-conflict stabilisation, peace-building and state-building by reinstating accountable security institutions and restoring effective security services to the population, thus providing the environment for sustainable development and peace.
3. The Council therefore highlights the importance of the proposed concrete actions of the EU SSR Framework to ensure coherence, coordination and complementarity of all relevant EU actors in supporting the governance and effectiveness of the security sector of partner countries, in line with the principles of the EU Comprehensive Approach and of the security/development nexus. In this context the Council stresses the importance of the principles of human security, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, good governance, national ownership, democratic control and oversight, rule of law, integrity, transparency, inclusiveness, accountability, sustainability, and gender sensitivity, in line with UNSCR 1325 and subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security.

4. The Council also emphasises the importance of setting the SSR support action in the wider context of the EU's overall engagement with the partner country and the necessity to implement it on the basis of the "whole-of-society" approach through the involvement of all relevant actors, including civil society, which is key in this regard.
5. The Council underlines the need to improve the collective ability to provide timely and effective SSR support and to better synchronize and coordinate activities carried out under the different EU instruments. In this light the Council underlines the importance of quickly finalising solutions for the Capacity Building in support of Security and Development (CBSD) initiative. SSR support must be tailored to the security needs of partner countries identified through an effective and inclusive political and policy dialogue and based on clear and sustained national ownership. The EU SSR Framework contributes to this effort by putting forward an integrated and systematic approach that applies to all EU instruments including CSDP, and aims at effectively combining and coordinating short-, medium- and long-term activities in the field of SSR. These activities may include inter alia: institutional support, training, equipment, support to oversight mechanisms and community security and may draw on the expertise of Freedom, Security and Justice (FSJ) actors when they can bring added value.
6. The Council calls therefore on all EU actors for a swift implementation of the EU SSR framework, in particular:
 - a. applying the principles and measures of the EU SSR Framework whenever planning and carrying out CSDP missions and operations in the field of SSR and when programming and implementing SSR-related development activities;
 - b. better understanding the security sector of a given country in its wider context, including through strengthened analysis and improved cooperation of all EU actors present in the field, including CSDP missions and operations and Member States representations, under coordination of the EU delegation;

- c. developing EU "coordination matrices" where they can provide added value. These should reflect the common understanding of priorities and respective roles of the different EU actors, including Member States and enable them to identify common objectives and appropriate links and sequencing between political/policy dialogue, cooperation activities and possible CSDP missions/operations;
 - d. taking forward coordination with the UN and other relevant international and regional partners who are active in a given country or region in the field of SSR and promoting a comprehensive international engagement around a single security sector support strategy to be developed together with the partner country;
 - e. developing guidelines for robust joint monitoring and evaluation as well as a risk management methodology;
 - f. ensuring the availability of the necessary SSR expertise, including through relevant training and through the establishment of an effective EU informal interservice SSR task force.
7. The Council stresses the importance that Member States are involved and contribute to the implementation of the EU SSR Framework and underlines its value as a reference to inform their bilateral support actions to improve coherence and effectiveness.
8. The Council recalls the need for a regular monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the EU SSR framework.
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