

## **Panel Executive Brief: Security Sector Reform and Stabilization**

The challenges related to Security Sector Reform (SSR) are of two types: how we conceptualize it and how we program it. The concept of SSR needs to be broadened to include human rights, perceptions of fear, economic development, governance, and justice mechanisms. A good security sector is not just effective in suppressing threats; it is accountable to the people it serves.

Programming needs to be more inclusive. Local partnerships, complete with national political will, are seminal to SSR. Partnerships with the UN for peacekeeping, with the World Bank for development, and with other international partners, is key to creating an environment conducive to security.

### **Speakers**

LTG Marc Caron - *International Security Sector Advisory Team, DCAF*

Dr. Stephen Watts - *Senior Political Scientist, RAND*

Melisa Dalton - *Senior Fellow and Deputy Director, International Security Program, CSIS*

*Moderator: Peter Quaranto - Senior Advisor for Peace and Security (DOS/F), SAR Lead*

### **Key Issues/Problems discussed:**

- US security sector assistance is being spent inefficiently.
- Understanding of local partners, the nature of civil society, or their legitimacy, is lacking.
- Conversation with local and national partners is lacking in planning phases.
- Objectives of SSR do not always agree with national political will.
- Security problems are often regional and while one nation may cooperate, all regional players may not.

### **Key Recommendations:**

- SSR should be understood as a political process, inclusive of governance, justice, legislation, and the media.
- SSR programming needs early identification and collaboration with local, regional, and international partners.
- The presence of UNDPKO makes SSR assistance most effective.
- Flexibility of communication should be maintained to be able to speak to different, sometimes conflicting, national interests.
- Civilian officials like US ambassadors need to engage in this political process.
- SSR should not be “reactive;” it needs long-term engagement and sustained M&E.

### **Significance of SAR:**

Security sector reform and stabilization are closely related processes; both are inherently political. The SAR pays attention to conflict sensitive and tailored approaches to stabilization - the type of tailored approach that is needed in reforming a post-conflict security system. Therefore, lessons learned by SSR practitioners closely reflect the recommendations of the SAR.