



*South Sudan, a newly formed, low income state under stress SSR started in 2005—SSR Resource Centre*

## SSR in Peacebuilding

Key Practical Issues and Challenges for Negotiation

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## Introduction

- Independence of South Sudan: High Hopes & Great Expectations of a new African paradigm
- Setbacks: Abyei (May 2011), Heglig (March-April 2012) & internecine conflict (December 2013 -)
- Urgent need to build peace to avert relapse
- Peacebuilding is a normal activity for normal countries!
- Twin Broad Challenges: Political Will and Approach

## Key Rationale and Realities of Contemporary African SSR

- Predication on perception of dysfunctional security systems:
  - One, character of post-independence, sub-Saharan states military forces as tools of colonial and post-colonial repression
  - Two, post-liberation security forces largely partisan, secretive, ethnically unrepresentative, state-centric and prone to gross violations of human rights
  - Three, urgent need for post-conflict peacebuilding, vis-à-vis incoherent and unsustainable programmes

## Snapshot of South Sudan's SSR Process (1): Key Priorities

- Improving police training and performance
- Improving oversight of SPLA Actors
- Demobilisation and/or integration of former combatants into the army
- Provision of basic security

## Snapshot of South Sudan's SSR Process (2): Key Challenges

- North-South tensions as a strong potential catalyst for outbreak of armed North-South inter-state conflict
- Justice system, in need of strong reforms, marked by 'flawed processes, unlawful detentions, and dire conditions', '...reflect[ing] urgent need to improve nation's fledgling justice system'
- Incomplete, slow, process of the DDR: far short of target to demobilise 90,000 ex-combatants out of total force of about 120,000 for the SPLA by 2017
- Internecine conflict since December 2013

## Suggested Areas of Common Ground for Negotiation (1)

1. Political sensitivities
2. Overarching National Security Strategy
3. DDR
4. Alliances and Compromises
5. Galvanising Sufficient Political Will
6. National Reconciliation as a Catalyst
7. Facilitated Broad-Based National Dialogue
8. Local Expertise and Capacity Building
9. Civil Society Participation

## IV. Suggested Areas of Common Ground for Negotiation (2)

10. Local Ownership
11. Not only the Military
12. Situating SSR in Peacebuilding: Youth Employment ?
13. Regional SSR Framework
14. Periodic Reviews and Redirection
15. External Mentoring and Technical Assistance
16. Meeting the Means and Resources Gap
17. Resource Mobilisation
18. Coordination of Donor/IFI Support

## Conclusion

- Significance and challenges of SSR in peacebuilding
- An integral to the peacebuilding process
- Complex and politically sensitive
- A comprehensive multi-sectoral process
- What South Sudan should avoid: pitfall of post-colonial African states and armies
- Near collapse of the security apparatus: an enabling environment for fundamental changes
- Security institutions, a mirror of society
- SSR only as successful as broader post-conflict reconstruction
- APSTA) ready to support IGAD Mediation efforts