

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

June 18, 2009

Information Note

ODIHR wishes to draw the attention to the fact that a number of OSCE participating States have taken an additional step in confirming the important link between security and women's rights by agreeing to report on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (UNSCR 1325) through the OSCE Forum for Security Cooperation's (FSC) Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. On April 1, 2009, 17 participating States read an interpretative statement to the FSC Decision No. 2/09 Technical Update of the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct on the updated Questionnaire for the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, which confirms that they will

“...expand the scope of our replies to the Questionnaire, by following the guidelines expressed in the two ministerial decisions [2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality in accordance with ministerial decision No. 14/04; as well as ministerial decision No. 14/05 on Women in Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation], to include information on women, peace and security.”; (http://www.osce.org/documents/fsc/2009/04/37101_en.pdf)

The Code of Conduct (<http://www.osce.org/fsc/22158.html>) is one of the key documents in the OSCE politico-military dimension. The Code of Conduct does not cover only inter-state issues, but also contains provisions regarding democratic parliamentary oversight of the armed forces and of internal security forces. The Code of Conduct has a direct link to the human dimension as it inter alia covers the human rights of service personnel.

All 56 OSCE participating States have committed to exchanging information on the implementation of the Code on a yearly basis. This year the participating States are due to submit their annual reports by June 15 and the replies will be publicly posted on the organization's website: <http://www.osce.org/fsc/documents.html?lsi=true&limit=10&grp=423>.

As UNSCR 1325 does not contain a built-in monitoring and reporting mechanism, it is desirable that the States take initiatives towards better data collection for assessing national implementation. The ODIHR therefore welcomes the intentions of those participating States joining the above-mentioned interpretative statement.

The ODIHR Human Rights, Women and Security programme (<http://www.osce.org/odihr/23764.html>) works to support participating States in implementing the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality in accordance with Sofia Ministerial Decision No. 14/04 and Ljubljana Ministerial Decision No. 14/05 on Women in Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation. Both Decisions invoke UNSCR 1325 and call for OSCE participating States to ensure the participation of women throughout all phases of conflict, at all levels. For additional information please contact Linda Öhman, Human Rights Officer, Linda.ohman@odihr.pl.

The FSC Support Section (<http://www.osce.org/cpc/13088.html>) provides support to the FSC in monitoring the implementation of the politico-military documents, develops and administers projects designed to assist participating States in implementing their commitments and assists the FSC Troika in preparing weekly meetings of the Forum. For additional information on the Code of Conduct, please contact Laura Furuholm, FSC Support Officer, at Laura.Furuholm@osce.org.