



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Mission to Montenegro

**X CETINJE PARLIAMENTARY FORUM: "Women in Security Sector – UNSC
Resolution 1325"**

“Women, peace and security”

Cetinje, 21-22 June 2010

Hotel Crna Gora

**Welcome address by Ambassador Paraschiva Badescu,
Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro**

Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a particular honour and pleasure for me, on behalf of the OSCE, to welcome you to this very important event. I can also say I am proud that the OSCE Mission to Montenegro has joined with the parliamentarians in co-organizing this 3rd OSCE Regional Meeting of Female MPs, as part of the X Cetinje Parliamentary Forum. Let me first of all express gratitude to the organisers of the Parliamentary Forum, as well as to the high representatives and experts from different institutions and countries. Together you will share your views on different aspects related to the implementation of the UNSC Resolution 1325 (2000) – Women in Security Sector, which will celebrate its 10th anniversary in October this year. All Euro-Atlantic institutions – OSCE, EU, NATO, CoE – have consistently called for the comprehensive implementation of the twofold agenda set out in UNSC Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, i.e preventing violence against women in crisis situation and in promoting the participation of women in peacebuilding.

The peace and welfare of the world require maximum participation of women on equal terms with men in all fields. Affirmation of women's rights has made enormous strides over the last decades. Women's political rights are widely respected since universal suffrage has become the rule also in those societies which cannot be regarded as fully democratic. Constitutions and national legislation provide the general framework for gender equality. There is, however, a still too visible gap between women's "formal" and "real" equality. The gap between principles and reality is still wide, in many countries. A society which does not empower women is not only a society that does not respect human rights, but it is also a society which does not use its full "human potential" in order to achieve political, social and economic development.

How does the gap between principles and reality manifest itself? We still see many cases of domestic violence against women; women remain frequent targets of sexual assault; discrimination against women workers continues more or less in silence; violence, including rape, against women in armed and ethnic conflicts is widespread. Last but not least, women are among the principal victims of trafficking.

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A number of international and regional resolutions, conventions, agreements and guidelines refer in general, as well as detailed terms to the need for gender equality, gender mainstreaming, the inclusion of women and men in decision-making institutions and processes, the elimination of gender based violence and the protection of women's human rights. Many laws and international standards establish particular responsibilities for the security sector.

By adopting the Resolution 1325, on 31 October 2000, on Women, Peace and Security, the UNSC recognised for the first time women's roles and needs in wartime and post-conflict situations, from victims of war to combatants and peace-builders. The Resolution addresses all UN Member States, parties to armed conflict and all actors involved in peace agreements, as well as in disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration processes. It stresses the importance of women's "equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution" (Preamble). It calls for support to local women's peace initiatives; the protection of women and girls from gender-based violence; measures to ensure the human rights of women and girls, particularly as they relate to the police and the judiciary; an end to impunity for those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, and sexual and other violence against women and girls; and gender-sensitive disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration. This Security Council resolution 1325– whose implementation will be thoroughly discussed during this Conference – is gaining increasing visibility. A number of countries have developed national plans of action for the implementation of the Resolution. So have some international organisations.

The equality of women and men and the protection and promotion of the human rights of women are considered by OSCE as being essential to sustainable democracy and to security and stability in its area. The participating States of the OSCE bear primary responsibility for implementation of commitments referring to equality between women and men in their territories. These commitments are reflected in a number of important OSCE documents, among them the Charter for European Security adopted at the OSCE Istanbul Summit (18 November 1999). The Charter encourages the strengthening of national machinery for the advancement of women. Later on, recalling OSCE's comprehensive approach to security and its commitment to gender mainstreaming, the OSCE Ministerial Council session in Sofia (December 2004) adopted an Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality. This states that "equal rights of women and men and the protection of their human rights are essential to peace, sustainable democracy, economic development and, therefore, to security and stability in the OSCE area. According to the Action Plan participating states are going to implement a variety of measures to prevent violence against women, to strengthen government institutions in this area, as well as their coordination with civil society and to promote equal opportunity for women in political and economic life. The Action Plan contains concrete steps toward achieving equality between women and men, gender mainstreaming of all policies, programmes and projects of the OSCE, including seminars and conferences.

One year later, in Ljubljana, in 2005, OSCE's Ministerial Council adopted a Decision on Women in Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Post-conflict Rehabilitation. The Decision encourages OSCE participating States to develop national rosters of potential women candidates for decision-making positions and to take active steps to ensure that women are fully informed of, and encouraged to apply, for positions in the area of conflict prevention and post-conflict rehabilitation processes, in particular for senior management positions. It calls on participating States and OSCE structures to implement a number of specific measures. I quote here "to support and encourage training and educational programmes focusing on women and girls, as well as projects aimed at women's participation in building sustainable peace; to empower women's organizations; to support women's peace initiatives through the media and

workshops on human rights and gender equality; and to raise awareness among women concerning the importance of their involvement in political processes".

The above mentioned OSCE Action Plan and Decision are used as a platform and as an integral element of policies and practices of the OSCE. In this regard these meetings, which are organized by OSCE Missions in the region, aim to strengthen the network of women parliamentarians and, by broadening awareness about the above mentioned policies and practices, to further the participation of women in society.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Central to any strategy to enhance women's participation in politics are the efforts invested in awareness raising, voter education, media campaigns, and so forth. Experiences show that it is only when women are meaningfully involved in politics and security that there is seen real, lasting changes in societies. Women's skills should be built in order to support and maintain peace and stability. This also involves contribution to the strengthening and development of other relevant frameworks, judicial and administrative infrastructures. Enhancing gender equality as an important tool for conflict prevention is essential in order to reach sustainable peace. Utilising the knowledge and expertise of women and strengthening the role of women in society is therefore a peace-promoting and conflict-preventing activity in itself.

The trends of global equalization and higher equality between men and women are slowly becoming trends in Montenegro as well. This is a logical consequence of a situation where more and more women use their opportunities in the educational system, at the workplace, and in households.

Although women today, at least formally, have more opportunities and chances, the expected progress has not yet been achieved. Women today are attending school, are employed, and generate their own income; however, their family obligations have not been reduced. A consequence of this is that the independence that they have achieved has only increased the daily obligations that women face. Nevertheless, it is evident that many women are handling all of these obligations and that the achieved, or potential to achieve, independence is worth the sacrifice. While this is so the continued under-participation of women in governance structures requires specific and effective measures in promoting gender balance in all legislative, judicial and executive bodies, especially at the political and decision-making levels.

The OSCE, its institutions and field presences are promoting policies and strategies towards achieving these goals, as the very core of the OSCE work represents security and cooperation built on human rights and democracy.

The OSCE Mission to Montenegro is providing assistance to the host country in the implementation of these goals and it will continue to do so.

Thank you for your attention.