

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

FSC.DEL/339/22  
29 September 2022

ENGLISH only



PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA  
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

Statement by Lithuania for the  
Forum for Security Cooperation  
Security Dialogue: Women, Peace and Security  
28 September 2022, Vienna

Mr Chairperson, thank you for giving me the floor. Lithuania aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. Please allow me to add several remarks in my national capacity.

I would like to express our appreciation to distinguished keynote speaker Minister Lahbib and to all panel speakers for their presentations. Lithuania especially thanks Colonel Valeria Romanova of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine for her important contribution.

Lithuania commends the **Ukrainian women for their courage and resilience** in their political, military and humanitarian response to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Ukrainian women bravely and selflessly lead the efforts to help those in need, affected by this war, including children, elderly and wounded. Women play a key role at the national and local levels to coordinate resistance against Russia. Many of them take up arms in defence of their country.

Lithuania stands in **full solidarity with Ukraine and its people, with the Ukrainian women and girls**. They, in particular, have been victims of unseen barbarity that Russia's forces unleashed on civilians:

attacks on maternity hospitals and other health-care facilities, on schools, shelters, residential buildings have killed and gravely injured women and children, including pregnant women and new-born babies;

millions of people are displaced in Ukraine, more than half of internally displaced people are women, most of those who had to flee their country are women and children;

large-scale displacement is seriously curtailing women's and girls' access to basic services;

sexual and gender-based violence is a horrifying part of this war.

Mr Chairperson, Colleagues,

Make no mistake; Russia's warfare against the civilian population of Ukraine is not a coincidence, it is not a collateral damage. It is a deliberate and consistent approach throughout Russia's continued aggression aimed at breaking the resistance and spirit of the Ukrainian people. Russia seeks to achieve its aims by terrorizing

civilians, terrorizing women and children. **Lithuania calls on the international community to seek accountability of Russia for violations of international law and international humanitarian law.**

Mr Chairperson,

The Women, Peace and Security agenda is based on and cannot be achieved without ensuring **human rights to all women**. Women's participation in peace and political processes is impossible, if their political and civic rights are violated. In this regard, we should not forget the Russian and Belarusian women - journalists, human rights defenders, members of civil society, and ordinary women protesting against the regimes of Putin and Lukashenka.

Let me **pay tribute to two prominent women, a Russian and a Belarusian**, who dedicated their lives to telling the truth about Russia's wars and about the realities of the regimes in their respective countries.

Next week we will commemorate a somber anniversary when **Anna Politkovskaya**, a Russian journalist and human rights activist, was murdered. Anna Politkovskaya reported on the brutality of Russia's war in Chechnya. 16 years after her death it is still unclear who ordered to kill her.

Belarusian writer **Svetlana Aleksievich**, Nobel Prize winner for literature, wrote about the Second World War, Soviet War in Afghanistan and harsh Soviet reality. She gave the voice to ordinary people, in particular to ordinary women, who were silent in their suffering and grief. Svetlana Aleksievich had to flee Belarus because of her active participation in peoples' movement against Lukashenka two years ago. She remains convinced that the Belarusian women play and will continue to play an important role in changing their country.

Mr Chairperson,

It is imperative that we maintain an active and regular discussion on the Women, Peace and Security agenda at the FSC, and that we maintain the **focus on the situation of women affected by Russia's brutal, unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression, and on important role of the Ukrainian women in countering that aggression**. Also, we should not forget the plight of women in Belarus and Russia.

It is even more imperative that our discussions on this important topic are not held just for the sake of discussions. We must step up our support to the women of Ukraine. The Women, Peace and Security agenda rests on the pillars of prevention, participation, safety and protection, relief and recovery. Therefore, we must ensure that national and international **support and assistance to the Ukrainian women and girls are at the heart of our response**.

Thank you.