



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA  
TO THE OSCE

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## Statement

### by the Delegation of Armenia at the 94<sup>th</sup> Joint Meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Permanent Council Security Dialogue: Women, Peace and Security Agenda: towards women's equal and full participation in peace and security governance.

*12 March 2025*

Distinguished Chairs,

Armenia welcomes the FSC-PC meeting on Women, Peace, and Security and thanks the OSCE Chairpersonship of Finland and the FSC Chairpersonship of Spain for convening this discussion. We also extend our gratitude to the panelists for their insightful presentations.

The landmark UN Security Council Resolution 1325 reaffirmed that peace and security efforts are more sustainable when women have an equal and meaningful role in conflict prevention, relief, recovery, and peace processes. As we mark the 25th anniversary of its adoption, this milestone provides an opportunity to assess its implementation, challenges, and the path forward. We, therefore, consider this discussion both timely and essential.

Armenia remains committed to advancing the Women, Peace, and Security agenda through national policies and programs promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. To this end, Armenia has translated its WPS commitments into three National Action Plans, ensuring coherent and coordinated policies that enhance women's roles across various sectors, including security sector governance and reform.

The Government of Armenia has consistently promoted gender equality in the defense sector, fostering an environment of inclusive and meaningful participation, particularly in decision-making processes. Since 2013, Armenia has provided professional military education opportunities for women in military universities. In 2023, a new law was adopted, allowing women to voluntarily serve in the armed forces for six months, with the option to apply for a five-year contractual service.

Armenian female peacekeepers continue to contribute to international peacekeeping efforts in Kosovo (KFOR) and Lebanon.

Chairs,

Despite significant international efforts to advance the WPS agenda, women and girls continue to bear the brunt of armed conflicts and crises. The latest annual report by the UN Secretary-General on Women, Peace, and Security underscores this harsh reality—revealing that in 2023

alone, the proportion of women killed in armed conflicts doubled compared to the previous year. Cases of sexual violence in conflict surged dramatically, and the number of girls affected by grave violations in armed conflict zones increased by 35 percent. Additionally, the number of forcibly displaced people has risen by 70 percent since 2018. Half of them are women and girls, and one in four are children under 12 years old. Women suffer under siege, blockade, starvation, and ethnic cleansing.

Armenia has firsthand experience with the immense suffering that women and girls endure in conflict situations.

Distinguished Chairs,

While the physical suffering of women and girls in conflict is widely recognized, the mental and psychological toll they endure must also be addressed. Trauma can persist long after active hostilities cease. The arbitrary detention and sham trials of prisoners of war and civilian internees—clear violations of international humanitarian law—inflict deep pain on families and societies, exacerbating their suffering.

Further psychological harm arises from reports on destruction of homes, cultural heritage desecration, and the demolition of centuries-old cemeteries, particularly affecting forcibly displaced women and girls.

Concerted international efforts are crucial to preventing such violations. The OSCE's conflict cycle tools—including monitoring and reporting mechanisms—can be instrumental in preventing violence against women and girls and safeguarding their rights.

Chairs,

At the heart of Resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions is the need for inclusive strategies that create safe participation channels for women from all backgrounds, movements, and communities. Protecting their rights, voices, and lives is central to these efforts. The international community must stand united against attempts to silence, attack, or criminalize women's rights defenders and their participation in decision-making processes. Such malpractices can signal looming or continuing wrongdoings ahead, including those that can affect regional peace and stability.

Finally, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Resolution 1325 and the thirtieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action create an important momentum for mainstreaming women, peace and security agenda and scaling up practical measures of countering all forms of violence against women and girls in conflicts and address their special protection needs.

Thank you.