



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine on UNSCR 1325
at the 80th FSC-PC Plenary Meeting
(10 March 2021, via video teleconferencing)

Madam Chairperson,

Ukraine has aligned itself with the European Union's statement. In addition, allow me to make some remarks in my national capacity.

The delegation of Ukraine would like to join others in warmly welcoming today's speakers and thanking them for their valuable contributions to our discussion today.

The UNSCR 1325 is a cross-cutting issue within the OSCE. It has been among the priorities of the Ukrainian FSC Chairpersonship in the second trimester of last year. Together with the Albanian Chairpersonship we organized a joint meeting devoted to "women, peace and security" agenda. It gave an oversight of the challenges and opportunities in the implementation of the resolution 1325 and provided a platform for the participating States to exchange best practices and lessons learned as well as to explore ways for deeper OSCE engagement in this field.

The FSC continues to serve as a useful platform to break negative stereotypes on gender issues and promote equal opportunities for women and men in the security and defense sector.

Within the Forum the participating States have a unique opportunity to promote meaningful inclusion and participation of women within all layers of the politico-military dimension. The Forum has elaborated a number of tools to that end. Among them are the Guidance Note on Assistance Projects aimed at mainstreaming gender aspect across all phases of OSCE assistance projects, voluntary information exchange on matters related to the UNSCR 1325 in the framework of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, the OSCE Scholarship for Peace and Security which will be conducted for the fourth year in a row despite the pandemic, dedicated security dialogues and assisting projects.

We regret that a meaningful and forward-leaning decision, which envisaged concrete steps to boost the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 could not find room for consensus during last year's Ministerial Council in Tirana.

At the same time, it is very encouraging that no fewer than 52 participating States in one voice committed themselves to turn words into action and make full use of the potential for further advancing the women, peace and security agenda, in particular within the FSC. We encourage other participating States to join this commitment and jointly achieve sound progress on this track already this year.

We strongly support additional efforts outlined in the aforementioned joint statement, including the adoption of the OSCE-wide Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, which could give further impetus to the implementation of the resolution 1325 and other subsequent resolutions in the OSCE region.

As an elected member of the UN Security Council, Ukraine cosponsored the landmark resolution 1325 back in 2000 reaffirming an important role of women in prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction. Since that day, we remain firmly committed to the provisions of this document as well as to other international instruments for gender equality. In 2020, Ukraine joined the Group of Friends of the UN Member States on implementing the agenda "Women, Peace, Security".

With the adoption of the National Action Plan for the implementation of resolution 1325, gender equality became an integral part of the reform of the security and defence sector and has been integrated into state policy priorities of Ukraine. The fulfilment of the National Action Plan facilitated the establishment of 7 regional action plans and provided for comprehensive programs of social protection ensuring gender equality and combating gender-based violence.

On 28 October 2020, new National Action Plan for the period up to 2025 was approved. Extensive consultations were held with representatives of NGOs and the UN Women in Ukraine in preparation of this document. It addresses, in particular, the impact on women from Russia's ongoing armed aggression against Ukraine and ensuring gender equality in the security and defence sector.

Ukraine values the OSCE practical assistance in promoting gender equality in the Armed Forces of Ukraine. In 2020, the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine with the support of other international stakeholders, including the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance and ODIHR, conducted a series of training courses for trainers and regional workshops in different cities of Ukraine on equal rights and opportunities for women and men in the Armed Forces of Ukraine. A number of manuals and guidebooks were drafted in the field of gender awareness raising, gender integration in the Armed Forces of Ukraine and countering domestic gender-based violence.

The Defence Ministry of Ukraine has been transformed into a modern institution which allows both women and men to pursue their professional careers on an equal footing. A number of important measures have been undertaken to facilitate the achievement of this goal.

They include, inter alia, the establishment of an effective institutional mechanism for the implementation of gender aspects in the activities of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, further improvement of national legislation, full access of women to military educational establishments at all levels. The sustainable development goal G0013 was incorporated into the partnership between Ukraine and NATO which envisages strengthening of gender aspect in the activities of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, including the participation in NATO-led operations and missions. Infrastructure, material and technical support have been further developed to meet the needs of military service by women. Measures have been undertaken to increase gender awareness among the military. A network of gender advisors has been established.

Such improvements in promoting gender equality in the security and defense sector of Ukraine facilitated the increase in female representation.

Since 2014, Ukrainian women have been playing an unprecedented role in defending Ukraine's freedom and territorial integrity in an international armed conflict still ongoing on the territory of my country.

Currently, over 57 thousand women do military service and occupy civilian positions in the Armed Forces of Ukraine, which makes up almost 23% of its personnel. 900 of them hold officer positions. According to the recent survey conducted in the Armed Forces of Ukraine, over 81 % of the servicewomen and servicemen confirmed their awareness of the gender equality in the military service. Almost 60% of the servicewomen believe that the principle of equal rights and opportunities for women and men is fulfilled in the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

I thank you.