







**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
The Secretariat**

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**Talking Points Almaty 11 November**

**11:00-12:30 Session 1. Women, peace and security agenda: current trends at the global and regional levels.**

-  UN Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, adopted by the Security Council in 2000, is considered by many a historic milestone as it was the first resolution on women, peace and security that addressed the disproportionate and unique impact of armed conflict on women; it recognized the under-valued and under-utilized contributions women make to conflict prevention, peacekeeping, conflict resolution and peace-building. The purpose of the resolution is to gender mainstream conflict prevention and peace efforts as well as the security sector and to promote gender equality and gender-sensitive policies in these areas.
-  On 18 October this year I participated on behalf of the OSCE in the United Nations Security Council annual Open Debate on resolution 1325 that showed an increasing interest of Member States in the Women, Peace and Security agenda. There were around 60 statements by different stakeholders mainly focused on how to improve implementation of commitments stemming from 1325 and follow-up Women, Peace and Security resolutions. The debate was a good indicator that considerations about the inclusion of women and gender aspects in peace and security efforts have moved from WHY to do it to HOW to do it. A similar conclusion about such a policy shift was drawn also by experts at a meeting that we, the OSCE Gender Section organized in Istanbul on gender-inclusive mediation a couple of weeks ago. I think we have to bear in mind when we discuss the Women, Peace and Security agenda that in more than a decade since the adoption of resolution 1325 there has been progress in terms of a growing awareness of the importance of these issues globally. Now we can see growing efforts to consider best ways of implementation of relevant commitments.
-  The OSCE is the largest regional security organization in the world and a key instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. As was mentioned by Secretary General Zannier in his opening speech this means that the security concerns of both women in men in the OSCE region are at the heart of our comprehensive security concept. This is also reflected in our policy framework such as the 2004 OSCE Gender Action Plan, and Ministerial Council Decisions that reinforce the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the OSCE region.
-  However, despite these calls for the inclusion of women in conflict resolution and conflict rehabilitation the process of implementation is still slow. I believe now is the

time for regional organizations to develop a concrete framework how to practically work with the resolution. It is time to move from theory to action.

✚ In the OSCE region 27 out of 57 participating States have developed National Action Plans and other participating States are in the process of developing theirs. Some participating States have chosen to develop a gender equality policy framework instead of a National Action Plan.

✚ We have tried to make the gender equality efforts throughout the OSCE region visible through an analysis that my Section provided when looking at mechanisms for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the context of the military and the security sector in the participating States. 32 States reported to have developed strategies for issues pertaining to Women, Peace and Security by having established either National Action Plans for UNSCR 1325 or national gender equality strategies, or strategies developed for their respective ministries. The analysis of the strategic approaches, however, shows that participating States rather focus on the participation aspect and leave implementation of other commitments, such as protection lagging behind.

✚ Efforts to include women's participation in the security sector as well as in peace building and to address their needs should be guided by a broader approach to gender. To be effective, 1325 and follow-up resolutions should not only concern the participation of women, but should include a gender analysis throughout peace building and security efforts.


✚ Applying a gender perspective in security analysis should be a standard policy as we gain a more comprehensive understanding of a situation and thereby also get a better understanding as to how these security aspects should be dealt with. By understanding the security aspects of both men and women we can also adapt our methodologies to work toward sustainable peace and stable societies.


✚ We have nothing to lose by striving for gender equality throughout peace and security issues - on the contrary. A recent World Bank study showed that societies where women have greater access to resources and employment and are part of decision making process are societies that are more likely to be resistant to conflict and have created sustainable political structures. UN studies have also shown that peace agreements that have included women and have adopted agendas that include issues pertaining to the whole of the population also gain greater support from a larger segment of society and are thus more likely to succeed.

✚ We at the OSCE have realized the importance to enhance the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and subsequent resolutions and have made gender mainstreaming an integral part of our improved early warning mechanisms. We have also strengthened our mediation capacities and we have developed a guidance note for women's participation in mediation processes as well as how to gender mainstream formal peace negotiations. You can find the guidance note in your welcoming package.

✚ Furthermore, the OSCE is in the process of developing an analytical tool for UNSCR 1325 implementation strategies. We will use this analysis to set up a framework that

will be conducive to sharing best practices and lessons learnt when it comes to the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

 In addition to this we support some OSCE participating States that have started looking into the possibility of developing an OSCE-Wide Action Plan on the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. Coordinated regional approaches on 1325 are becoming a trend from Europe to the Pacific and an OSCE-Wide Action Plan would result in the OSCE having a more coordinated effort in its implementation of the Women, Peace and Security resolutions. It would also enhance the process of information sharing on challenges and best practices of implementation strategies - and maybe even pool resources for the development of these.

 The reason that we are here today is to strengthen the understanding of the Women, Peace and Security agenda and to share experiences and lessons learnt. I know that there is ample of experience in the OSCE region and I look forward to interesting discussions.