



EUROPEAN UNION

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EU Statement on Defence Capacity Building with a Gender Perspective

The European Union and its Member States warmly welcome the speakers, H.E. Ambassador Mariët Schuurman – NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security and Ms. Tamar Tavartkiladze Gender Adviser at the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine to the FSC and thank them for their interesting and comprehensive presentations. Our thanks also go to the FSC Chairmanship for arranging this important discussion. Dialogues, such as this, are important in emphasising that gender equality affects the whole society, including the armed forces in their international and national functions.

Gender equality is at the core of European values and enshrined within the European Union legal and political framework. The European Union strives to mainstream and strengthen the implementation of UNSCR 1325, its follow-up resolutions and a gender perspective in its Common Security and Defence Policy. Nomination of gender contact points at each EU Delegation, as well as appointment of a gender adviser in the CSDP Missions and Operations currently deployed and the appointment of the Principal Advisor on Gender and Implementation of UNSCR 1325 of the European External Action Service, are only few examples of many encouraging developments in this area.

Promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women are among the EU's main priorities in the OSCE. We stress the importance of addressing gender equality and the empowerment of women as a cross-dimensional topic. We believe that the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security and related resolutions remains highly relevant for the OSCE. We note in this context the preamble of UNSCR 2242 underlining the primary role of member

states to implement fully the relevant provisions of Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security, and the important role of UN entities and regional organisations. Additionally, sustainable development and peace and security can never be achieved if half of the population is excluded.

A gender perspective, encompassing the equal participation of men and women, is both an essential goal and a means to help prevent and resolve conflicts and promote a culture of inclusive and sustainable peace. There is also a close link between the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and the opportunities made available to women to participate politically, to achieve a sustainable livelihood and to feel secure in their communities during and after conflict. Furthermore women's peace initiatives and conflict resolution efforts are a valuable resource for the development of sustainable and inclusive approaches to peace and security. It is important to note though that gender is not only about women, but about gender roles of both sexes, and that a gender perspective thereby also concerns the role of men.

In this context, we welcome activities to promote gender mainstreaming by the SMM in Ukraine. We highly appreciate the initiative of the Mission to train staff on gender awareness; to appoint gender focal points; to organise a first consultation meeting on Women, Peace and Security, and to participate in events on gender issues in Vienna. But we believe the SMM should further enhance its focus on ensuring gender mainstreaming and gender sensitivity in the Mission's internal and external operations. In that regard, we welcome the intention to enhance gender training on management level in the field, and would be interested in exploring whether such measures could also be introduced at subordinate level. We would also welcome more regular reporting on the gender aspects of the Mission's operations. We would also appreciate more information on the Gender Action Plan being developed from the Mission.

CSDP training is aimed at creating a European security culture under the CSDP and meeting crisis management operational needs in both civilian and military fields. EU training policy in CSDP is based on the following main principles with regard to gender issues: ensure a holistic and co-ordinated approach toward training for all

categories of personnel; contribute to the mainstreaming of a human rights and gender perspective into CSDP.

Military and civilian crisis management is an important area where gender equality can be mainstreamed. Integrating gender issues into armed forces' international and domestic functions is a challenge, but can significantly improve the functioning of armed forces.

We emphasise that crisis management operations and missions must operationalise gender in their activities and that all deployments, including senior management, receive training on gender mainstreaming, preventing and responding to sexual violence and sexual exploitation and abuse. We encourage all participating States to ensure that any nationals deployed to crisis management operations are trained on these topics.

Women's active participation and leadership is crucial in all levels and parts of decision-making and implementation in reaching sustainable peace and security. We encourage women's participation throughout the whole conflict cycle, including in decision making and mediation, and look forward to an exchange of views on how the OSCE could improve its implementation of these aims and show leadership in this regard.

There are still many challenges ahead where we can do better in the implementation of UNSCR 1325, including through continued cooperation with other international organisations and partner countries. We also stress the importance of actively engaging with civil society, not the least women's groups, which is essential both for the implementation and monitoring of the Resolution. Thus, we look forward to further engage with the OSCE and individual participating States in this important area of our common interest.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, SERBIA* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA and ANDORRA align themselves with this statement.

* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.