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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE  
80th JOINT MEETING OF THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION  
AND THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

10 March 2021

**United Nations Security Council resolution 1325**

Madam Chairperson,

United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 has placed the issue of women, peace and security not just on the international agenda. Discussion of this topic is important for protecting women and ensuring their equal rights in the context of conflict prevention and resolution and post-conflict reconstruction. However, we take the view that the resources of the joint meetings of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) and the Permanent Council should be used more rationally, focusing on other issues that are no less important for the OSCE area. Our meetings should rather focus on efforts aimed at “reinvigorating” practical mechanisms for security co-operation, including its military component, confidence-building measures and conflict prevention.

As demonstrated by the work on the relevant draft decision for the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Tirana in December, there is unfortunately growing potential for this topic to provoke confrontation here. Our colleagues in the negotiation process insisted on expanding the politico-military mandate of the FSC to include tasks related to resolution 1325. While we understand that it is of interest to a wide range of States, you must agree that its discussion in the Forum can only be of secondary importance. After all, it is clear that issues of equality between women and men have no bearing on the politico-military situation in Europe.

We believe that the work of the FSC should focus on issues so important that the stability of the continent depends on their resolution. Filling its agenda with issues relating to resolution 1325 could be justified only in the absence of other, more urgent European security concerns.

With regard to the Forum’s mandate, it should be recalled that the OSCE Ministerial Council decisions and declarations related to the politico-military sphere for the years 2013–2019 task it with focusing on the impact of the destabilizing accumulation of and illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition on women, and on their contribution to the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and to combating the illicit trade in SALW. There is still much work to be done in that regard.

We believe that the process of involving women in such activities should be carried out on the basis of existing needs. Priority should be given not to ensuring that the percentage of men and women in OSCE structures is equal, but to their professional qualities. The concept of “equal opportunities” is therefore preferable to “equal participation”.

Last year’s thematic debate in the United Nations Security Council was not an easy one either. As you know, the Russian Federation, in its capacity as President of the Council, introduced a draft resolution on the anniversary of resolution 1325. Our initial version was a concise and balanced commemorative text reflecting the four pillars of the women, peace and security agenda, which focused not only on aspects of peace and security but also on human rights and development issues.

However, this version of the document did not receive the support it deserved from a number of Western countries, which take umbrage at the fact that other States, in particular Russia, are taking the lead in this area, thus challenging the supposed Western “monopoly”. As a result, the views of the members of the Security Council on such an important issue were divided. It is a great shame that it was the issue of women, peace and security that became a stumbling block, and that we were not able to demonstrate once again the unity we achieved 20 years ago.

We are convinced that, in this area, the FSC and the Permanent Council need to focus on implementing the solid body of commitments already accumulated on this topic, rather than on artificially promoting it, including by developing new documents.

Thank you for your attention.