

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

FSC.DEL/329/22
28 September 2022

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

Delegation of France

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ANTOINE GOSSET, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
FRANCE TO THE OSCE, AT THE 1023rd PLENARY MEETING OF THE
OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

28 September 2022

On United Nations Security Council resolution 1325

Mr. Chairperson,
Esteemed panellists,
Dear colleagues,

France fully supports the statement made on behalf of the European Union, but wishes nevertheless to add a few remarks in a national capacity.

France sincerely thanks the Belgian Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) for having chosen to devote today's Security Dialogue to the women, peace and security agenda. We are delighted to have had the honour of welcoming Minister Lahbib to our midst and thank her and the esteemed panellists warmly for their presentations.

Resolution 1325 on women and peace and security, adopted by the United Nations Security Council almost 22 years ago, was aimed at increasing the participation of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts. Although efforts have been undertaken and progress achieved, much still remains to be done to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all decision-making and operational processes related to peace and security. We are convinced of the essential mission and role of the OSCE, and in particular of the FSC, in ensuring that women are included in all stages of conflict prevention and resolution.

The protection of women and girls before, during and after conflicts and the prevention of all forms of sexual and gender-based violence are likewise a focus of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325.

The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine reminds us of the crucial importance of protecting women in conflict settings. The reports under the Moscow Mechanism, the invocation of which was supported by France, have highlighted grave violations of international human rights instruments by the Russian Federation that have affected women in particular. Ukraine has experienced a rise in violence against women since the start of the war, and cases of sexual violence and rape committed by Russian soldiers have been reported. Women are exposed to a growing risk of trafficking in human beings, and their

health, like that of their children, is more vulnerable as a result of impaired access to gynaecological and obstetric care. There is also reason to fear that there may be an upsurge in domestic violence, which had already increased in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions following the escalation of tensions before 24 February.

Promoting the women, peace and security agenda, protecting its *acquis* and implementing it fully, in particular in the current context of the Russian war of aggression in Ukraine, continue to be priorities for France. Allow me in this regard to dwell briefly on France's relevant commitments and actions.

France hosted the Generation Equality Forum from 30 June to 2 July 2021, the largest international summit for promoting women's equality and rights since the conference in Beijing in 1995, which resulted in the unprecedented and unanimous adoption of a Declaration and an ambitious Platform for Action for women's rights. By bringing together Heads of State or Government, the heads of international organizations and civil society, youth and private sector representatives, the Generation Equality Forum made it possible to launch six Action Coalitions aimed at achieving tangible and measurable results within five years.

Moreover, at the same time as the aforementioned Forum, France adopted its third national action plan for the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda, covering the period 2021–2025. A continuation of the preceding national plans, this plan covers all external action by France in relation to peace and security and is anchored in a rights-based approach, the aim being to systematically take gender challenges into account.

Finally, we should like to reiterate our full and complete support for all the OSCE initiatives spearheaded by the Secretary General, to whom we express our deep appreciation, with a view to implementing the women, peace and security agenda. Our role and that of the Organization are indeed essential for the implementation of this agenda, all the more so today, in the context of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

Thank you.