



**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 61-th FSC/PC plenary meeting
(7 October 2015 at 10.00, Hofburg)**

Mr. Chairman,

Ukraine has aligned itself with the EU statement, which we fully support. In addition, let me also make some remarks in our national capacity.

The Delegation of Ukraine joins other delegations in warmly welcoming today's speakers, and thanks them for the valuable contribution to the FSC/PC discussion on the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) "Gender equality in the Armed Forces: best practices".

This year marks fifteen years since the adoption of the Security Council landmark resolution 1325, establishing the basis for the women, peace and security agenda and calling for the special protection and the full and equal participation of women in all conflict prevention, resolution and post-conflict peace building efforts.

Ukraine stays committed to the implementation of this resolution. Notably, to highlight Ukraine's efforts in this respect a side-event titled "Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325: international experience, Ukrainian perspective" was organized jointly by the missions of Ukraine and Lithuania in Geneva on the margins of the Human Rights Council session on 29 September 2015.

A National action plan in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 to promote women's equal and full participation as active agents in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace building and peacekeeping, as well as incorporate gender perspective in all areas, is being developed by the Government of Ukraine, in close consultations with the UN agencies and civil society.

Today a strong civil society has been formed in Ukraine. The Ukrainian society and voluntary organizations, mainly headed by women, provide psychological, medical assistance for military, women and children who were forced to move from the east of Ukraine, also they are actively involved in the organization of humanitarian aid.

The action plan will provide for practical steps aimed at promoting women's greater participation in military, political, economic and social life, as well as addressing the current challenges faced by women and girls, first and foremost those caused by the on-going foreign aggression against our country.

A characteristic feature of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in modern conditions is the active implementation of State gender policy which aims on the sustainable and fair development of the individual serviceman, regardless of gender. Ukraine has a significant representation of women in the Armed Forces, which is 10% of the total number of military personnel. However, in the Armed Forces of Ukraine women are mostly involved in such professions, as doctors, financiers, logisticians, communication officers etc. Recently, given the security situation in Ukraine this statistics is beginning to change. The main factor, which does not allow to raise the gender balance to 30:70% ratio, is the lack of female soldiers who have been trained for command, engineering and technical specialities. This is partly driven by governing documents' constraints and small number of applicants.

Distinguished colleagues,

The Ministry of social policy of Ukraine in accordance with UNSCR 1325 together with other central executive authorities of Ukraine, international and non-governmental organizations are developing the action plan "Women, peace and security" for the period till 2020". The development of this action plan due to the presence of threats related to the armed conflict in the eastern part of Ukraine underlines the need to consolidate and optimal use of the potential of women in combating violence and establishing peace. More than 1 million 449 thousand people moved from the east of Ukraine, most of them - women and children. The risks of gender-based violence, trafficking and crime are growing. There is a significant need for post-traumatic support of all groups of the population, especially children, victims of violence and ex-combatants.

The main aim of the action plan is to ensure stable peace, and a conflict resolution based on mutual respect taking into account the needs and interests of women and men, a high level of participation of women in daily political and military activities, peace process, recovery process, prevention and combating gender-based violence, reintegration of persons affected by the armed conflict, including internally displaced persons.

Currently, the Ministry of social policy of Ukraine approved the composition of the Interagency working group on implementation of UNSCR 1325 by Ukraine, which includes representatives of national authorities, international and non-governmental organizations, including those who are working in the east of Ukraine.

Faced with the foreign aggression, Ukraine, in close cooperation with its international partners, is making efforts to address gender imbalances based on gender and to modernize its gender policies with the view to promoting the effective participation of women in public and politico-military life.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.