



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE
AT THE 1023rd FSC PLENARY MEETING
(28 September 2022)**

Agenda item 1, Security Dialogue: Women, Peace and Security «Full, equal and meaningful participation of women demystified»

Mr Chairperson,

At the outset, let me express our gratitude to the Belgian FSC Chairpersonship for dedicating this Security Dialogue to the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. Ukraine has always paid special attention to the issue of the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in the security and defence sector. This topic is of particular importance now, against the backdrop of the unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression initiated by the Russian Federation against my country.

We are grateful to Her Excellency Minister Labib and all our distinguished panellists for their valuable contributions to our today's discussion. We also look forward to taking part in today's side event co-organised by the Belgian Chair of the FSC and the Canadian Chair of the Security Committee on the role of gender diversity within security services.

Back in 2000, Ukraine as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council co-sponsored and supported the adoption of the UN Security Council resolution 1325. We are proud of being among the authors of this landmark resolution, establishing the basis for the WPS agenda and calling for special protection and the full and equal participation of women.

Substantial efforts were invested during the two decades since the adoption of the resolution in ensuring full equality and protection of women's rights in Ukraine. Under the circumstances of ongoing Russian aggression since 2014, Ukraine adopted a National Action

Plan on the WPS agenda and was the first among the UN Member States to do this during a situation of conflict.

Even now, against the backdrop of the Russian full-scale war of aggression against Ukraine, the Government continues to implement the WPS agenda in Ukraine

Russia's war against Ukraine has made it clear that our second WPS National Action Plan, covering the period of 2020-2025, requires serious updates and adjustments to new security threats. Our commitment to implementing the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 remains the same, but our capabilities have been severely undermined by Russia's invasion.

Since the very beginning of this unprovoked and unjustified military intervention, thousands of Ukrainian women joined the Defence Forces. Women currently constitute about 16% of all service members in Ukraine's Armed Forces, and women constitute 10% of those involved on the frontlines. At the same time, we understand that the full and meaningful participation of women is not just about quotas and figures. It is about equal rights and opportunities, decent and respectful conditions of work or service for all regardless of their gender. This is the aim the Government of Ukraine has in front of it now.

Talking about the WPS agenda, we cannot but recall terrible facts on human rights violations against women and girls committed by the Russian troops ignoring the call of the UN SC resolution 1325 to respect fully international law applicable to the rights and protection of women and girls, especially as civilians, in particular the obligations applicable to them by norms of International Humanitarian Law. Ukrainian women know first-hand how disproportionate could be the impact of war. Every day women and girls lose their lives from Russian bullets, bombs and missiles. In the temporarily occupied areas, they are subjected to gender-based sexual violence, abuse and ill-treatment by the Russian soldiers.

These practices are unacceptable and should be stopped immediately. Ukrainian law-enforcement agencies, as well as national and international human rights organisations, continue to investigate these atrocities in order to bring all responsible persons to justice. We are convinced that justice will be served sooner or later in relation to all responsible persons, including those who ordered, committed and whitewashed the crimes.

Mr Chairperson,

Let me conclude by reiterating Ukraine's commitment to the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution 1325 and relevant OSCE commitments in order to contribute to the empowerment of women and promote the importance of women's participation and leadership in all aspects of peace and security.

Ukraine has always supported the OSCE's efforts to develop a regional plan to implement Resolution 1325. We regret that Russia's destructive stance on the matter affects our progress on the WPS agenda in OSCE.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson. I ask that this statement be attached to the Journal of the Day.