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ENGLISH  
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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY  
MS. IULIA ZHDANOVA, HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY  
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1110th PLENARY MEETING OF  
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

18 June 2025

**Agenda item: Security Dialogue  
Subject: “The Role of Women in Strengthening Defence and Ensuring Resilience”**

Madam Chairperson,

We note the Estonian Chairmanship’s efforts in convening a Security Dialogue devoted to the role of women in strengthening defence and ensuring resilience. We welcome the panellists, who shared practices and recommendations on how to involve women in the tackling of national security issues.

Today’s discussion is being held in line with United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on women and peace and security, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. The Russian Federation invariably accords a high level of attention to this topic. While recalling that the prerogative rests with the United Nations when it comes to facilitating implementation of the resolution, we express our support for ideas aimed at increasing the participation of women in peacekeeping processes, including negotiation and peacemaking and post-conflict reconstruction. However, the involvement of women in peacemaking is not a mechanical process and it manifests itself not merely and not so much in statistics and in the pursuit of a numerical balance. Applicants’ professional skills, knowledge and experience should be the key criteria.

We should also like to point out that attempts to impose a broad interpretation of the women, peace and security agenda at the OSCE are counterproductive. We would remind you that this agenda comprises not only the well-known United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 but also a number of subsequent associated resolutions. The thematic scope of these documents can hardly be said to overlap fully with the existing OSCE commitments approved by all the participating States.

It goes without saying that this also applies to the work of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). For example, our Ministers for Foreign Affairs have suggested that the participants in the FSC exchange information regarding the impact of illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons (SALW) and conventional ammunition on women and children, and also regarding the involvement of women in processes related to combating illicit arms trafficking, including within the framework of relevant OSCE projects. At least five Ministerial Council documents deal with these issues (MC.DEC/8/13, MC.DEC/10/14, MC.DOC/3/16, MC.DEC/10/17 and MC.DOC/5/18). Nevertheless, we do not recall the

Forum having set about implementing these taskings in recent years. We should like to draw the rotating FSC Chairmanships' attention to the fact that the current state of affairs needs to be rectified. The global situation clearly demonstrates the importance of controlling transfers of conventional arms and military goods, including SALW. Nor can it be denied that, despite the measures taken, women continue to be killed or injured as a result of the use of SALW in armed conflicts.

At the same time, we strongly believe that the discussion of "gender" topics as such at the Forum can only be of a subsidiary nature. It is by no means issues of equality between women and men in the area of security that are shaping the politico-military situation in Europe. It is important to concentrate on the root causes of the current crisis and on ways of eliminating these.

We are also obliged to warn the members of the FSC Troika and participating States in general not to shift the focus of discussions of resolution 1325 away from the topic of peace and security to, in effect, the participation of women in preparations for war. Such opportunistic approaches are not conducive to peacebuilding and should not be encouraged.

As for our national practices in the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, they are reflected to some extent in the Russian Federation's responses to the Questionnaire on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security over the preceding years.

In closing, we wish to reaffirm our willingness to share our experience in addressing problems related to resolution 1325 within the confines of the FSC's politico-military mandate, and also our openness to engaging with the international community on the topic of women, peace and security at the United Nations.

Thank you for your attention.

### **Attachment**

## **Wordings related to women from the OSCE MC documents 2013–2019<sup>1</sup>**

MC.DEC/8/13  
6 December 2013

### **DECISION No. 8/13 SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND STOCKPILES OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION**

The Ministerial Council,

2. Tasks the Forum for Security Co-operation, in accordance with its mandate, in 2014, to:

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<sup>1</sup> Translator's note: English text from original.

- Exchange views and information and share best practices, on a voluntary basis and if relevant to the mandate of the FSC, on women's contributions to security and the possible impact of illicit SALW on women and children;

MC.DEC/10/14  
5 December 2014

**DECISION No. 10/14  
SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND STOCKPILES  
OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION**

The Ministerial Council,

2. Tasks the Forum for Security Co-operation, in accordance with its mandate, in 2015, to:
  - Exchange views and information and share best practices, on a voluntary basis and if relevant to the mandate of the FSC, on the impact of illicit SALW on women and children as well as on creating equal opportunities for women's participation in policymaking, planning and implementation processes to combat illicit SALW;

MC.DOC/3/16  
9 December 2016

**MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON  
OSCE ASSISTANCE PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF SMALL ARMS  
AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND STOCKPILES OF CONVENTIONAL  
AMMUNITION**

1. We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe,
19. Invite participating States to exchange views and information and share best practices, on a voluntary basis and if relevant to the mandate of the FSC, to address the impact of excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALW and conventional ammunition on women and children as well as creating equal opportunities for women's participation in policymaking, planning and implementation processes with regard to the OSCE assistance projects in the field of SALW and SCA;

MC.DEC/10/17  
8 December 2017

**DECISION No. 10/17  
SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND STOCKPILES  
OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION**

The Ministerial Council,

2. Tasks the Forum for Security Co-operation, in accordance with its mandate, in 2018, to:
- Continue to exchange views and information and share best practices, on a voluntary basis and if relevant to the mandate of the FSC, on:
    - Addressing the impact of excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALW and SCA on women and children;
    - Creating equal opportunities for women's participation in policymaking, planning and implementation processes to combat illicit SALW as well as with regard to the OSCE Assistance Projects in the field of SALW and SCA;

MC.DOC/5/18  
7 December 2018

**DECLARATION ON  
OSCE EFFORTS IN THE FIELD OF NORMS AND BEST PRACTICES  
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND STOCKPILES OF  
CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION**

4. We are concerned about the negative impact of illicit trafficking in SALW on our societies, noting in particular the impact on women and children.

MC.DOC/1/19  
6 December 2019

**COMMEMORATIVE DECLARATION ON THE  
OCCASION OF THE 25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE OSCE CODE OF  
CONDUCT ON POLITICO-MILITARY ASPECTS OF SECURITY**

We reconfirm that the knowledge, skills and experience of both women and men are essential to efforts aimed at furthering peace, security and stability in the OSCE region, including the implementation of

the Code of Conduct, and we are committed to ensuring and promoting their equal opportunities and full and meaningful participation in that process.