



**77th JOINT MEETING OF THE  
FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION  
AND THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

1. Date: Wednesday, 20 May 2020  
  
Opened: 10 a.m.  
Closed: 1.25 p.m.
  
2. Chairperson: Ambassador Y. Tsymbaliuk (FSC) (Ukraine)  
Ambassador I. Hasani (PC) (Albania)

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson (FSC) reminded the participants of the technical modalities for the conduct of meetings via teleconferencing technology during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Point of order: Russian Federation, Chairperson (FSC)

3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE ON UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325

- *Presentation by Ms. O. Xhaçka, Minister of Defence, Albania*
- *Presentation by Ms. T. Kovalchuk, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, Ukraine*
- *Presentation by Ambassador M. Verveer, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Gender*

Chairperson (FSC), Chairperson (PC), Minister of Defence of Albania (FSC-PC.DEL/22/20 OSCE+), Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine (FSC-PC.DEL/21/20), Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on Gender (FSC-PC.DEL/23/20 OSCE+), FSC Co-ordinator for Matters Related to UNSCR 1325 (Albania) (Annex 1), Croatia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the

country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (Annex 2), United Kingdom (Annex 3), Germany (Annex 4), Turkey (FSC-PC.DEL/17/20 OSCE+), Switzerland (FSC-PC.DEL/14/20 OSCE+), Russian Federation (Annex 5), France (Annex 6), Kazakhstan (Annex 7), Liechtenstein (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Malta, Mongolia, the Netherlands, San Marino, the OSCE Secretary General, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) (FSC-PC.DEL/12/20), United States of America (Annex 8), Canada (FSC-PC.DEL/19/20 OSCE+), Spain (Annex 9), Georgia (FSC-PC.DEL/13/20 OSCE+), Azerbaijan, Armenia, Slovakia, Bulgaria (Annex 10), Afghanistan (Partner for Co-operation) (FSC-PC.DEL/15/20 OSCE+), OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (FSC-PC.GAL/3/20 OSCE+), Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Latvia) (Annex 11)

Agenda item 2: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

To be announced



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Forum for Security Co-operation  
Permanent Council**

FSC-PC.JOUR/64  
20 May 2020  
Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

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**77th Joint Meeting of the FSC and the PC**  
FSC-PC Journal No. 64, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE FSC CO-ORDINATOR FOR MATTERS RELATED TO  
UNSCR 1325 (ALBANIA)**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Dear Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,  
Dear colleagues,

It is a pleasure to address today's joint FSC-PC meeting in my capacity as the FSC Co-ordinator for Matters Related to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325. Thank you for scheduling this important security dialogue and keeping the women, peace and security agenda high among your priorities.

I would like to commend our distinguished guest speakers for their powerful and insightful presentations, which will give a valuable impetus to the discussion of the implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 agenda.

Twenty years ago the international community came together and unanimously adopted this landmark resolution. Four years later the OSCE's participating States adopted the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality. This was followed by a number of Ministerial Council decisions and a variety of activities, programmes, projects, publications and initiatives mainstreaming gender.

I completely agree that United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 is not simply a women's agenda. It is cross-cutting, involving all the three OSCE dimensions, and we should treat it as such.

Regrettably, no State has achieved full gender equality to date and there is slow progress in this regard. Of course, more can and remains to be done to fully comply with the commitments undertaken.

During the last security dialogue on United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 in March, under the Turkish FSC Chairmanship, the issue of national action plans was brought to our attention. Let me reiterate that during the last five years there has been an increase in the number of national action plans from 27 to 36, but 37 per cent of the OSCE

participating States still do not have one. I encourage participating States to start working on this, to call for assistance if needed and to continue to implement their commitments.

Last year, during the Ministerial Council in Bratislava, in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, the participating States reaffirmed their commitment to the women, peace and security agenda by reconfirming 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 area, including the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, and underlined their commitment to ensuring and promoting equal opportunities for women and men and to their full and meaningful participation in that process.

In the context of the annual information exchange on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, I would like to encourage participating States to continue to submit responses to the voluntary questions related to United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, in which the issue of gender plays an integral role, with particular reference to prevention, participation and protection. The annual information exchange demonstrates participating States' commitment to transparency, building confidence and security, promoting regional stability, and sharing common values.

An expert contracted by the Conflict Prevention Centre has drafted a report on the responses of 37 participating States concerning women, peace and security in the 2019 Information Exchange on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. The report takes a closer look at the responses and takes stock of where we now stand with the implementation and discussion of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325. The study report is due to be presented during the upcoming ninth Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, which will be a good opportunity for participating States to take part in the discussion.

I would also like to bring to your attention the third edition of the OSCE Scholarship for Peace and Security training programme. This year, 150 young scholars – to be specific, 135 women and 15 men, with the women coming from 46 OSCE participating States and seven Partners for Co-operation – have already begun the eight-week online training on conflict prevention and resolution through arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation in the OSCE area. This will be followed by a one-week in-person training course later this year in Vienna. A report on the impact of the scholarship programme showed that it increased the participants' knowledge, raised awareness about security issues, assisted in facilitating networking opportunities, and allowed students to develop professional and personal competencies such as knowledge-gathering, self-confidence and motivation.

Mr. Chairperson,

As part of the Women in the First Dimension (W1D) network, I am also very glad to announce that the efforts and work for the establishment of the mentoring programme have already started and they continue as we speak. The programme is one of two initiatives undertaken by the network at its very outset. The first virtual exchange on the mentoring programme will take place before the summer recess. The aim is to get an initial idea of the level of interest on the part of participating States and gather the first volunteers to act as mentees and mentors. As announced during the launch of the Women in the First Dimension

network in March, the aim of the mentoring programme is to bring together female and male experts as well as young colleagues working in the first dimension of the OSCE to learn, share experiences and grow professionally. More information on this programme will follow in due course.

And now, last but certainly not least, I would like to commend the European Union Member States' adoption in March 2020 of the five-year Gender Equality Strategy 2020–2025, aiming towards a gender-equal Europe.

I also echo the European Union's call and unwavering support for the adoption of the proposed OSCE-wide action plan for the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, which is intended to be a powerful reminder in this 20th anniversary year that the full implementation of women, peace and security agenda continues to remain a priority as it has a direct impact on the achievement of the OSCE's goal of comprehensive security.

Thank you very much for your attention.

I kindly request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Forum for Security Co-operation  
Permanent Council**

FSC-PC.JOUR/64  
20 May 2020  
Annex 2

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**77th Joint Meeting of the FSC and the PC**  
FSC-PC Journal No. 64, Agenda item 1

## **STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

The delegation of Croatia, in its capacity as EU Presidency, passed the floor to the representative of the European Union, who delivered the following statement:

The European Union and its Member States warmly welcome the distinguished speakers to this joint meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Permanent Council and thank them for their insightful presentations. We commend the Ukrainian FSC Chairmanship and the Albanian OSCE Chairmanship for dedicating this joint meeting, for the first time, to the women, peace and security agenda and for their commitment to its implementation.

The realization of gender equality is a fundamental value of the European Union and we remain a frontrunner in the global arena in engaging, empowering, protecting, and supporting women and girls to achieve peace and security. The women, peace and security agenda, consisting of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 and its follow-up resolutions, broadens the scope of traditional security by highlighting the importance of the gender dimension in peace and security. It focuses on women's full, equal and meaningful participation in peace and security-related decision-making processes, including crisis prevention, peace processes and relief and recovery, as well as on protection from conflict-related violence. The agenda stresses that gender equality is embedded in peace and security issues, and that gender perspectives are integral to peace and security. In addition, it states that addressing the gender-related root causes of violence is critical for conflict prevention. In fact, as stressed by the UN Secretary-General's reports, when women are meaningfully included in peace processes, the chances that peace agreements are implemented over a two-year period increase by 20 per cent and over 15 years by 25 per cent.

It is of the greatest importance that the OSCE continues to enable and stand up for women's meaningful, effective and equal participation in all forms of conflict prevention, not just those related to women or gender-related matters. Through its Women, Peace and Security Action Plan, the European Union recognizes gender equality and women's empowerment as a prerequisite for dealing effectively with the conflict cycle, including conflict resolution, mediation, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and post-conflict reconstruction, including demobilization, disarmament, reintegration and security sector reform.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact many aspects of our lives. In this context, we underline the importance of gender-sensitive crisis response mechanisms. We call on all to support and monitor the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women, including through digital tools, in ongoing ceasefire and peace negotiations, political transitions, the implementation of peace agreements, and crisis recovery decision-making, in line with the women, peace and security agenda. We also encourage participating States to contribute emergency funding for regional and local women's organizations, particularly in conflict-affected countries. We would also like to draw attention to the plight of refugees and internally displaced persons, many of whom are women and girls.

Women's leadership in all areas of policy related to peace and security is crucial. The European Union is committed to ensuring that women and girls participate equally and substantially in preventing and resolving conflicts, and in the prevention and protection of conflict-related violence, including all forms of sexual and gender-based violence. The European Union also reiterates the importance of the engagement of men and boys as positive agents for change, addressing gender stereotypes and societal exclusion mechanisms.

We call on the OSCE to continue its efforts to ensure equal representation of women at all levels with the aim to achieve a gender balance, especially at senior and decision-making levels, in all the OSCE structures and field missions. We must all continue our efforts to identify and remove all barriers to women and men's equal participation in the sector of peace and security. Equal opportunity and representation are a matter of democracy and inclusive security. The European Union further underlines the role of the participating States in this matter in relation to the seconded positions in the OSCE. The European Union also commends all the initiatives, including informal networks, that support the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda within the OSCE, such as the recently launched Women in the First Dimension network and their efforts to develop the mentoring programme.

The European Union recognizes the added value of the annual questionnaire of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security that allows participating States to provide voluntary information on women, peace and security. We encourage all participating States to do so. Better information and data will strengthen the OSCE in its capacity-building efforts and training as well as support with monitoring, evaluation and reporting procedures, that all are crucial parts of closing the implementation gap.

Although we all, the OSCE and the participating States, have made efforts to implement United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 and have seen several success stories, there is still much work to be done: continued and robust engagement at the OSCE senior level, enhancing women's meaningful participation in these processes and the systematic integration of the gender perspective throughout all policy areas. For example, the ambition of establishing an OSCE-wide regional action plan that addresses our specific regional dimensions of the women, peace and security agenda and its implementation, is not yet realized.

The European Union remains convinced that a strengthened commitment to women, peace and security and women's participation in all OSCE activities would contribute to the OSCE comprehensive security approach and thereby strengthen the organization. Neglecting to carry out gender analysis and to integrate a gender perspective would negatively impact the

ability to achieve peace and security and thus on the OSCE's role as a regional security organization.

We stress the need for continued close engagement and co-operation between the participating States, Partners for Co-operation, the OSCE Secretariat, the field missions and the autonomous institutions at all stages of the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda and throughout the realization process. We further encourage strengthening the ties to, and working closer with, civil society, local, regional and international civil society organizations, grassroots activists, women human rights defenders and women's rights organizations.

In conclusion, the European Union calls on the OSCE and the participating States to amplify our efforts on the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda. After 20 years it is high time that we close the implementation gap.

Mr. Chairperson, I kindly request this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

The candidate countries the Republic of North Macedonia<sup>1</sup>, Montenegro<sup>1</sup>, Serbia<sup>1</sup> and Albania<sup>1</sup>, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area, as well as, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Georgia, Andorra and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

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1 The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
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**77th Joint Meeting of the FSC and the PC**  
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## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

As Chairperson of the Security Committee, MenEngage network and as ambassador for my country – I would like to thank both the Ukrainian FSC Chairmanship and the Albanian OSCE Chairmanship for making the women, peace and security agenda one of its key priorities and for dedicating today's joint Security Dialogue to this important topic. Doing so reinforces the importance of gender equality in the achievement of peace and security efforts.

I'd like to extend my sincere gratitude to the distinguished speakers – the Minister of Defence of Albania, the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine and the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on Gender for their invaluable time today. Their excellent insights serve to demonstrate both the great progress, but also the complex challenges that still surround the women, peace and security agenda in the OSCE area.

Mr. Chairperson,

We last had the opportunity to discuss the women, peace and security agenda in March under the Turkish Chairmanship, since then we have, and are, enduring an unprecedented crisis which has affected all our lives. Despite the physical restrictions, COVID-19 has brought many of us closer together as we seek out new ways to socialize, work and engage with each other. We have seen the brave response from those who are fighting this pandemic in medical centres and hospitals around the world and we recognize the sacrifices so many have already made. Two-thirds of the global healthcare workforce is female, placing women at the frontline of the pandemic. However, the conditions in which we now operate and live in during this crisis also present wider risks and threats. We must not let COVID-19 erode our progress on – and the importance of – the women, peace and security agenda.

Over the past two decades since the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 in October 2000, a lot has been done to promote the importance of the resolution and to implement its agenda. But significant challenges still remain. At the Security Dialogue in March, I highlighted that 20 years on, less than two-thirds of OSCE participating States had a national action plan. And we again encourage all participating States yet to adopt a plan to do so as soon as possible.

On the Security Committee – for the transnational threats that the Committee covers – we need to deepen our understanding of gender dynamics. This is to better inform how we respond to these threats. For example, at our 2 March meeting, the Committee considered the importance of a whole of society approach to counter-terrorism and violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism. During that meeting, we heard about a project in the Western Balkans that highlighted the specific issues around female radicalization. We want to continue to focus on specific, tangible examples and illustrations of gender dynamics and their importance for tackling transnational threats within the Committee.

In March, we welcomed the Women in the First Dimension group and with it, the List of Female Experts and welcome today the launch of the mentoring network. We must capitalize on this initiative, ensuring whenever possible, those experts are represented at OSCE conferences and dialogues. We will do precisely this for the Security Committee. And it is great to hear that this is exactly the intention of the Annual Security Review Conference.

Mr. Chairperson,

We heard earlier about the significant and valuable role women play in both Albania and Ukraine. In Albania we recognize its national action plan and tangible results in country. This includes the statistic that 35.4 per cent of officers who joined the army last year were women. In Ukraine, we value the role women play in civil society, including as human rights defenders, and by ensuring access to humanitarian assistance, education, and healthcare on both sides of the contact line. We also routinely hear about the outstanding work being done by the Special Monitoring Mission throughout Ukraine, including by women monitors.

Women’s participation is key to the success and longevity of peace processes. This is important not only in Ukraine, but in all parts of the OSCE area affected by conflict, and at all stages of the conflict cycle. As an organization, we must do better in ensuring that women are represented among OSCE mediators at all levels in the relevant formats related to protracted conflicts. It is incumbent on us to take full advantage of tools – such as the OSCE’s “Inclusion of women and effective peace processes”. And bring more women mediators to the table. This is also the case for female monitors.

As Chairperson of the OSCE MenEngage network, I will continue to raise awareness of the role and influence all of us can play in speaking out against inequality and ending gender-based violence. Gender parity at all job levels in the OSCE; robust action against gender discrimination; and a zero tolerance approach on sexual harassment must happen – supported by tangible measures and actions from all of us. And we must end, collectively, sexual exploitation and abuse wherever and whenever it occurs. Representatives from the MenEngage network are pleased to join the female ambassadors in their statement later today.

Mr. Chairperson,

In concluding, we have recently commemorated the 75 year anniversary of VE day. It would be an oversight not to recognize the important role women played in that victory, including on the frontlines and their fundamental role in rebuilding our societies and countries after the conflict. The Second World War provided a stimulus for social change and

the fight for what we now recognize as gender equality. Yet, three quarters of a century later that inequality and discrimination still persist in the OSCE area. We need to continue to promote change and tackle it head on.

United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 affects every single one of us. It is about inclusive peace and security, where we take account of varied perspectives and ways of thinking. It is about ensuring that efforts to prevent, respond to, and resolve conflict take into account the needs of all of society. At its core, it is essential to achieve a more peaceful, prosperous and democratic OSCE area.

Thank you once again for putting a spotlight on this important topic. I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
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**77th Joint Meeting of the FSC and the PC**  
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## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY**

Mr. Chairperson,

Germany fully supports the statement made on behalf of the European Union. However, we should like to add a few more remarks at today's meeting in a national capacity.

We should like to thank the Ukrainian Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) and the Albanian Chairmanship of the OSCE for the choice of topics for our meeting today.

Germany is one of the main donors to the OSCE Scholarship for Peace and Security.

This programme, which is being implemented this year for the third time, helps to promote the full participation of women in decision-making, planning and implementation processes in security policy.

We also welcome the recent publication of the OSCE Study on Implementing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in the OSCE Region, which highlights the main trends and challenges.

We support the Albanian Chairmanship's objective of giving new impetus to the OSCE's work to promote the role of women in conflict resolution and reconciliation.

To this end, Germany attaches great importance to United Nations Security Council resolution 1325. We therefore intend to conduct a Security Dialogue on women, peace and security this autumn under our Chairmanship of the FSC, in close co-ordination with the Albanian OSCE Chairmanship.

Mr. Chairperson,

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325.

For this special year, we had planned to take stock of the situation, celebrate the successes achieved so far and develop a course of action for the future. We wanted to use this

20th anniversary to generate attention for women, peace and security and to focus even more on implementation.

Instead, since the spring of this year, we have been kept busy by the COVID-19 pandemic, which, in terms of its social and economic impact, has particularly affected women.

It is now up to us not only to build a new momentum on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, but at the same time to find solutions to the new challenges created by COVID-19 for the full and effective participation of women in peace and security processes.

To this end, Germany is supporting the COVID-19 Emergency Response Window of the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund with a contribution of 2.5 million US dollars. In addition, Germany is supporting particularly vulnerable people in humanitarian crises with an additional 300 million euros.

At the same time, however, we must not lose sight of the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda. Barriers to the full participation of women in peace processes remain, as does sexual violence against women in conflict regions, despite our efforts.

Allow me to therefore explain the path we believe we must take in order to remove the most serious obstacles:

First, we must address the lack of implementation and the underfunding of the agenda. At the United Nations level, for example, we organized an event in April 2019 together with the United Kingdom and UN-Women, where more than 75 United Nations Member States, United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organizations committed themselves to a total of 400 actions to promote implementation. In May 2019, Germany made a voluntary commitment of more than 80 million euros for humanitarian projects to combat sexual and gender-based violence.

Second, we must create communities of action and further develop links between civil society, States and organizations. This is why Germany has supported the Women, Peace and Security Focal Points Network and the African Women Leaders Network from the very beginning. Last year, we also launched the German-Latin American women's network UNIDAS.

Third, civil society plays a decisive role in implementing the women, peace and security agenda. This is because it is particularly well networked on the ground. Civil society is the first to experience restrictions, violence and repression. Germany is committed to the protection and support of women peace activists and human rights defenders, through projects with local organizations, through our missions abroad and by building regional networks of women human rights defenders.

Fourth, strengthening our co-operation and reaffirming our political will is of particular importance.

For Germany, the women, peace and security agenda is therefore a priority during our time as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. We advocate consistent mainstreaming of the women, peace and security agenda in all relevant processes of the United Nations Security Council.

At Germany's initiative, United Nations Security Council resolution 2467 was adopted in April 2019, which strengthens the accountability of perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence and anchors a survivor-centred approach in the agenda.

Particularly now, at a time when we are being confronted with a stronger trend towards unilateralism, when we have to counter the "pushback" of human rights, and especially women's rights, we need a strong and united message and joint action.

Germany has launched the Alliance for Multilateralism, which aims to strengthen and support the multilateral system as the backbone of a rules-based and just world order.

Mr. Chairperson,

Germany will continue to be committed to implementing the women, peace and security agenda – in the United Nations as well as in the OSCE. It is high time that we fulfilled the promise we made to women and girls in conflict regions around the world when we adopted resolution 1325.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you very much.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
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**77th Joint Meeting of the FSC and the PC**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Mr. Chairperson,

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, which placed the issue of “women, peace and security” firmly on the Security Council’s agenda. During this period, significant progress has been made in advancing the role of women in the prevention and resolution of armed conflicts and in post-conflict reconstruction.

At the same time, we should like to emphasize that in implementing the goals and objectives of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, the co-ordinating function unquestionably remains with the United Nations, and we should not duplicate its efforts. It is important that the steps to elaborate comprehensive approaches in this area take into account the specific nature of each conflict situation, and the inclusion of gender aspects should not become an end in itself. We should also remember that the primary responsibility for the protection of women during all stages of an armed conflict rests with national governments.

In recent years, our Organization has made significant headway in promoting gender equality, including the adoption of the relevant Action Plan in 2004. But problems remain. We are convinced that in the current circumstances it is necessary to focus primarily on creating equal conditions for women and men in which they can fully realize their potential. In that connection, it is important that the promotion of women and men in any professional environment should be determined by the level of their knowledge, experience and commitment, and gender mainstreaming in OSCE programmatic and project activities should be based on the principles of reasonableness and necessity.

We have repeatedly emphasized that achieving gender equality is an important goal but its implementation – both within the Organization’s structures and in the participating States – should not focus on figures alone.

With regard to the importance of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, we note that dealing with the tasks relating to the issue of women, peace and security cannot replace the full range of commitments that every State has for ensuring gender equality and empowering women.

We continue to take the position that national action plans for the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 cannot be used as a tool for evaluating the policies for the advancement of women in individual countries. Such plans may be prepared on a voluntary basis by those States that are involved in an armed conflict or post-conflict reconstruction.

In the Russian Federation, for example, there is no such plan, but the country is creating the necessary conditions for women to fully realize their potential as active participants in public and political life.

Women play a significant role in the Russian armed forces. Today, around 45,000 women serve in all the services and branches of the armed forces on a contractual basis in 150 different roles. In addition, more than 315,000 women work in the civil service, in military units and in subordinate organizations. It is worth noting, in particular, the important contribution by Russian female military doctors and nurses to the fight against international terrorism as part of missions deployed to the world's hotspots.

Recently, interest among women in serving in the Russian army has increased noticeably due to the growing prestige of military service, improved financial support, social security benefits and the opportunity to receive an education under more favourable terms.

Mr. Chairperson,

In the current context, the need for greater attention to the economic and social rights of women, whose situation could potentially deteriorate considerably in the face of the rising economic costs of the raging coronavirus pandemic, cannot be underestimated either. It is important to eliminate discriminatory restrictions and practices in the workplace. The task of States is to give women the opportunity to reconcile family and professional life.

Combating violence against women in all its forms and manifestations, including ensuring adequate protection for women during conflicts, also remains of paramount importance. Despite the considerable efforts being made, women continue to be victims of various forms of violence and lose their lives and health during conflicts.

We are ready to continue contributing to the discussion on the relevant international platforms of ways to improve the situation of women, defend their human rights and ensure their effective participation in peace processes.

Thank you for your attention.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
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**77th Joint Meeting of the FSC and the PC**  
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## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF FRANCE**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Dear colleagues,

France fully supports the statement made on behalf of the European Union. We should nevertheless like to add a few comments in a national capacity.

France is pleased to welcome Ms. Olta Xhaçka, Minister of Defence of Albania, Ms. Tetiana Kovalchuk, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, and Ambassador Melanne Vermeer, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Gender, to today's Security Dialogue and thanks them warmly for their high-quality presentations. We are convinced of the benefits of exchanging experiences and hope that the ensuing discussions will profit as much as possible from them.

On 31 October 2000, the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 1325 and made the participation of women in conflict resolution and peacekeeping one of its priorities. Since then, nine other resolutions have been adopted, all aimed at improving and strengthening recognition of the special place of women in conflicts, while encouraging a focus on prevention, protection and peacekeeping and calling for sexual violence in conflicts to be combated. United Nations peacekeeping missions have shown that the presence of female military personnel helps to significantly increase the trust of communities and better define their protection needs. The implementation of the women, peace and security agenda must allow for a mutual reinforcement of the "peace and security" and "human rights" pillars of the United Nations. As a permanent member of the Security Council, France is fully committed to the implementation of this agenda, which has been set out in two action plans since 2010. Five areas of action have been identified: the participation of women in the management of conflict and post-conflict situations, the protection of women against violence and the protection of women's rights in conflict and post-conflict situations, combating impunity, but also prevention by raising awareness and promoting the women, peace and security agenda at the national, regional and international level.

In 2019, France wanted to take advantage of its presidencies of the G7 and the United Nations Security Council to advance the women, peace and security agenda. In both of these forums, the focus is on two aspects of the agenda: the effective participation of

women in peace-building, on the one hand, and combating sexual violence against women, on the other.

As far as the United Nations is concerned, the Arria-formula Security Council meeting on the women, peace and security agenda on 13 March (co-organized with Germany) was devoted to gender inequality in the participation in political processes, with a focus on the Sahel region.

In the context of the French G7 Presidency, the women, peace and security agenda was established as one of the main areas of work of the French G7 foreign affairs track, with the inclusion of the sections of that agenda on “participation of women” and “protection and reintegration of victims of sexual violence” on the agenda of the Dinard ministerial meeting, which resulted in a specific communiqué. The Biarritz summit itself incorporated this priority, in particular through the support given to the Global Fund for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, led by Nobel Prize winners Nadia Murad and Denis Mukwege.

France’s implementation of the women, peace and security agenda will continue in 2020 and beyond: the drafting of a third National Action Plan implementing the women, peace and security resolutions is currently under way. This plan will ensure the continuity of French public action on taking into account the specific place of women in conflicts.

Finally, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, France will co-chair with Mexico the Generation Equality Forum in Mexico City and Paris. Organized at the initiative of UN-Women and with the participation of civil society, this Forum has been postponed until the first half of 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It will make it possible to take stock of the progress made over the past 25 years, but above all to draw lessons from this crisis, which has underscored, and even reinforced, persistent gender inequalities and highlighted the fragility of the gains made during the past 25 years.

Mr. Chairperson,

There has been some progress in these matters in recent years. Nevertheless, efforts must be continued and encouraged at the regional level. The OSCE and its Forum for Security Co-operation are outstanding platforms for discussion and genuine levers for action, which we should exploit more effectively. The participation of women at all decision-making levels, and in particular in the security sector, is self-evident; our co-operation must be equally so.

Thank you. I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



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**77th Joint Meeting of the FSC and the PC**  
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## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF KAZAKHSTAN**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

First of all, we would like to thank the Ukrainian Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Albanian OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office for programming this security dialogue on the essential topic of the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary throughout the world this year.

I also wish to thank our distinguished guest speakers for their presentations.

United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 has changed the way the international community thinks about the role of women in peace support operations and political and military interventions, and in global security and society generally. United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 is a landmark international legal framework in that it was the first such instrument to highlight not only the disproportionate impact of war on women but also the vital contribution women can and do make to political decision-making, early warning and preventive diplomacy, mediation and peace accords, conflict prevention, management and resolution, and advancing the cause of sustainable peace.

We would like to recall that in December 2013, Kazakhstan, together with Austria, Finland and Turkey, co-sponsored a draft OSCE-Wide Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, which aimed to enhance our tools to implement commitments in this field.

Dear Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to underline Kazakhstan's commitment to fulfilling its obligations under United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 and the related United Nations resolutions and documents. Since independence in 1991, Kazakh policy has aimed to provide legislative support to women. Kazakhstan has ratified several major international treaties, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Convention on the Political Rights of Women, the Convention on the Nationality of Married Women, six International Labour Organization conventions, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Kazakhstan was the first Central Asian country to establish a national entity to promote gender equality, namely, the National Commission on Women, Family and Demographic Policy.

Currently there are more than 20,000 women serving in the Kazakh law enforcement agencies and army (12,000 and 8,000 respectively). Women from the Kazakh army are taking part in the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) and in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) as military observers.

Kazakhstan is committed to the economically sustainable and secure development of the OSCE partner country Afghanistan. We strongly believe that it is impossible to build a stable State without education. Therefore, in 2010 Kazakhstan launched a scholarship programme funded with 50 million US dollars to enable Afghan students to study at institutes of higher education in Kazakhstan.

In addition, on 18 October 2019 Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, in co-operation with the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), launched another programme to provide training and higher education for several dozen Afghan women at Kazakh and Uzbek universities over the next five years.

I thank you.



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## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

The United States warmly welcomes Albania's Minister of Defence, Ukraine's Deputy Minister of the Interior and the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on Gender to the OSCE's joint meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Permanent Council, under the aegis of the Ukrainian and Albanian Chairmanships, respectively.

Today's topic, "women, peace and security" is timely, not only because we are marking the 20th anniversary of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, but also because the empowerment, meaningful inclusion and participation of women as well as ensuring the safety and protection of women and girls are essential to comprehensive security. Your statements have given us ample material for reflection and further action to advance the empowerment and full participation of women.

Twenty years ago, the United Nations Security Council affirmed that peace and security are more sustainable when women are fully invested in all aspects of the conflict cycle, from early warning to prevention, crisis management, resolution, and post-conflict rehabilitation. In 2004 the OSCE's Ministerial Council adopted an action plan, referencing Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, that tasked the participating States with promoting the role of women in conflict prevention and peace reconstruction processes. Since then, the Security Council has adopted nine additional resolutions to promote women's inclusion and meaningful participation in decision-making throughout the conflict cycle, as well as ensuring the safety and protection of women and girls from gender-based violence.

Despite progress in implementing United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 and the subsequent set of additional resolutions, as well as advances in upholding OSCE commitments, much work remains to be done. The recent OSCE study on implementing the women, peace and security agenda reports that 60 per cent of participating States have national action plans. While that is certainly welcome progress, this also means that twenty years after the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, 40 per cent of the participating States still have important work to do.

We must redouble not only our resolve but also our efforts to ensure gender equality and women's inclusion in all aspects of our peace and security agenda. The OSCE Secretariat and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) have developed an

impressive array of tools to help participating States uphold their commitments. The ODIHR's gender and security sector reform, the Secretariat's Handbook on Gender in Military Operations, its newest toolkit on the inclusion of women in effective peace processes, and OSCE mentoring networks are just a few such tools. Yet we still have more work to do.

The work of the OSCE is most effective when it is guided by the example and political will of the participating States. It is incumbent upon each of our countries to promote gender equality in peace and security fields at home and in our various bilateral and multilateral relationships. For our part, the United States Congress passed the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2017 establishing the United States as the first country in the world with comprehensive legislation on women, peace and security and ensuring our nation's efforts to promote women's meaningful participation in security processes around the world have the full force of law. The Trump administration published the "US Strategy on Women, Peace and Security" in June 2019. This whole of government approach is consistent with the core tenants of the National Security Strategy of the United States which recognizes women as agents of positive and durable change to prevent and resolve conflict, counter terrorism and violent extremism, and establish post-conflict peace and stability. The Strategy seeks to increase women's meaningful participation in decision-making processes related to conflict and crises and to promote the protection of women and girls' human rights.

Within the US Department of Defense, since 1951 the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services has submitted annual reports with advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Defense on the recruitment, retention, employment, integration, well-being, and treatment of servicewomen in the armed forces. Of the over 1,000 recommendations, approximately 98 per cent have been either fully or partially adopted.

The current Commander of US Navy Sixth Fleet is Vice Admiral Lisa Franchetti. Although she was unable to serve on combat ships when she first joined the US Navy 35 years ago, with increased opportunities for women, she is now a fleet commander, responsible for all US naval forces in Europe. Vice Admiral Franchetti noted: "Every day I wake up and I think about all the opportunities that we have in America, and I want to make sure that we always have those opportunities. That's the motivation to serve my country."

Mr. Chairperson,

Informal arrangements at the OSCE such as Women in the First Dimension, MenEngage, and the Network of Female Ambassadors are laudable initiatives demonstrating the resolve to improve the participation of women in peace and security efforts. We welcome the efforts of Women in the First Dimension to ensure equal representation in the work of the Forum for Security Co-operation and launch a mentoring network for female professionals in the security dimension.

We look forward to commemorating the 20th anniversary of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security and taking stock of our progress on this front. We also look forward to incorporating the outcomes of the Gender Equality Review Conference to advance the OSCE's essential work on women, peace and security over the next 20 years.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



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**77th Joint Meeting of the FSC and the PC**  
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## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SPAIN**

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairperson.

Spain fully aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union.

I should also like to thank you sincerely for including this item on the agenda of the joint meeting of the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation, and all the speakers for their valuable contributions. They have all recognized the crucial importance of continuing to work in a co-ordinated way on the development of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security.

This year we celebrate the 20th anniversary of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 and we do so while finding ourselves in an extraordinary situation. The COVID-19 crisis highlights the fragility of the progress made and reminds us of how far we still have to go in order to advance the women, peace and security agenda in a manner consistent with our commitments and objectives. Today, we have a new challenge to add to the list of duties to comply with the letter and spirit of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325: to take into consideration the tremendous impact of the pandemic on the most vulnerable people in the most unfavourable circumstances. We cannot isolate ourselves from the reality around us, nor dissociate the object of our concerns and actions from the issues that affect them directly. This year, when we celebrate the 20th anniversary of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, we need to combine the women, peace and security agenda with our reflections on how we wish to respond to the COVID-19 crisis.

There is no doubt that this challenge also presents an opportunity. The development of the women, peace and security agenda allows us to observe a fundamental change: from the consideration of women as victims of armed conflicts and, in particular, of sexual violence in conflict, to the consideration of women as essential actors in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in the subsequent reconstruction efforts. Women's participation and leadership is essential for the efficacy of the women, peace and security agenda, and it is also essential to adequately address the impact of the pandemic in conflict situations. The COVID-19 crisis reminds us of the pressing need to advance women's empowerment on all fronts and in all areas, not only as a matter of justice and equality, but also of efficacy.

In this regard, I should like to refer briefly to two initiatives for the development of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 that are of particular importance to the Spanish delegation.

The first is the Women, Peace and Security Focal Points Network, which was one of the commitments announced by Spain during the high-level open debate in 2015. Launched in 2016, it has more than 80 members, including the OSCE. Currently under the co-chairmanship of Canada and Uruguay, this operational network has demonstrated its effectiveness in exchanging experiences and promoting the commitments of States and organizations to advance the objectives of the agenda.

During the meeting of the Focal Points Network in September 2019 in New York, Spain and Finland launched the joint initiative “Commitments 2025” to ensure the effective participation of women in peace processes. Ten States have joined so far and we are confident that it can serve as a road map to ensure that women are effectively involved in peace processes, especially in the light of the scenario opened up by the United Nations Secretary-General’s appeal for a global ceasefire.

Furthermore, I should like to recall that it has been 30 years since women joined the armed forces in Spain and, since the entry into force of Law 17/99 on Regulations for Armed Forces Personnel, full equality between men and women is guaranteed without any limitation, and with full access for women to all bodies, ranks and operational destinations.

As of 1 April 2020, there are 15,583 women (including students) in the Spanish armed forces, which represents 12.9 per cent of all active military personnel. The average number of women in our armed forces is higher than that of neighbouring countries, which is around 11.1 per cent. Likewise, as of 1 April 2020, the Spanish armed forces have deployed a total of 177 women in missions abroad, which constitutes 7.3 per cent of the total military personnel deployed in this type of mission.

These initiatives and commitments demonstrate the crucial importance that Spain attaches to the implementation and development of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions, and the efforts it has been making in that regard. The implementation of the women, peace and security agenda is now more urgent than ever.

Thank you very much.



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## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF BULGARIA**

Dear Chairpersons,  
Dear colleagues,

First of all, I would like to extend our appreciation to the Ukrainian and Albanian Chairpersons for organizing today's joint FSC-PC session on the topic of women, peace and security. Our appreciation also goes to the distinguished high-level guest speakers for their valuable contributions.

Bulgaria fully aligns itself with the European Union's statement and likewise with the women ambassadors' and representatives' statement delivered by Liechtenstein. Nevertheless, I would like to share some news and reflections in my national capacity.

As 2020 marks the 20th anniversary of the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, it is essential to take stock of how far we have got on the road of tapping the full potential of women's leadership as a powerful resource for peace and security. The lessons learned should also be used and shared as an opportunity to shape the way in which we may address the global challenge of COVID-19.

Today's meeting is an opportunity to once again put female empowerment, gender equality and the valuable role women play in security at the centre of our political discussion in the OSCE. I should also like to seize this opportunity to warmly welcome the Women in the First Dimension network that was launched in March this year – there should and can be no doubt about the crucial role of women in multilateral processes at any level.

Dear Chairpersons,

As the responsibility for the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda lies mainly with individual States, I am happy to announce that in March 2020 Bulgaria adopted its first National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security, for the period 2020–2025. While the process has for administrative reasons taken some time, it has made it possible to engage various stakeholders and to conduct a wide range of discussions, confirming that many lessons are actually learned in the course of generating energy and partnerships on a national and international level. Here I would like to pay tribute to our partnership with and the important advice we have received from the Republic of Ireland.

The NAP reflects our national support for all efforts aimed at ensuring the full and equal participation of women at all levels, ranging from conflict prevention to post-conflict reconstruction, peace and security, and all measures to advance the prevention and elimination of sexual violence in conflict. Empowering women and girls and removing barriers to their meaningful participation in all aspects of life is integral to lasting peace and sustainable development.

In this respect, much progress has been achieved at the national level in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of the Interior, including the police. Still, we have a great deal of work ahead of us in order to realize our declared intent of concrete policymaking, to which we are fully committed. Meanwhile dialogues such as today's are of vital importance to the continuation of our co-ordinated efforts.

I kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the meeting.

Thank you for the attention.



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**STATEMENT BY  
THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE INFORMAL GROUP OF  
FRIENDS ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND  
STOCKPILES OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION (LATVIA)**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Dear colleagues,  
Distinguished speakers,

In my capacity as Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA), I should like to start by thanking the distinguished speakers for their valuable and insightful contributions with regard to implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security. This remains a landmark resolution and provides us all with an opportunity to make real and lasting contributions to our collective security. We should do all we can to grasp this opportunity together.

In the spirit of today's security dialogue, I would like to recall the Basel Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/14 on SALW and SCA, which tasked the FSC with exchanging views and information and sharing 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. Later, the Vienna Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/17 on SALW and SCA tasked the FSC with continuing to exchange views and information and share best practices on (a) addressing the impact of excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALW and SCA on women and children, and (b) 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.

At the first OSCE Biennial Meeting to Assess the Implementation of the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA, held in 2018, participants acknowledged the need for the OSCE to enhance its SALW- and SCA-related norms, best practices and mechanisms to better address both present and emerging challenges, and to prevent, combat, and eradicate the diversion of SALW and conventional ammunition. A number of areas were identified for

improvement and further development, among them the integration of gender aspects into the OSCE Best Practice Guides (BPGs) on SALW and Conventional Ammunition (CA).

The Informal Group of Friends on SALW and SCA has taken careful note of these Ministerial Council decisions and the recommendations made by participating States, as well as of the recommendations contained in the comparative study of the OSCE Handbooks of Best Practices on SALW and on CA conducted in 2018, including those on the addition of gender-related language to the updated BPGs.

Work on updating the OSCE BPGs on SALW and CA continues apace. I am pleased to note that four draft updates of OSCE BPGs are being reviewed by the core group experts and OSCE field operations, and the draft update of the BPG on Deactivation of SALW is on the agenda of FSC Working Group A. I hope it will be endorsed by all participating States in due time. I commend those States that are actively involved, and invite others to join in these efforts.

To conclude, I strongly recommend that participating States consider the incorporation of gender aspects, where appropriate, when updating and reviewing these and all other OSCE documents.

A significant body of research has shown that greater participation of women in policymaking, planning, and implementation processes leads to better outcomes. Levels of conflict and violence are reduced, prosperity is increased, and peace agreements last longer. We have the chance to build more equitable societies for all – women and men, boys and girls.

Dear colleagues,

Allow me to join my voice in support of all the initiatives, including formal networks, that support the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda within the OSCE, such as the Women in the First Dimension network, the MenEngage network, and the Women Ambassadors and Representatives, and to wish them well in all their efforts.

I thank you for your attention.

I kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.