



Permanent Mission of Ukraine  
to the International Organizations in Vienna

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**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine**  
**at the 832<sup>nd</sup> FSC Plenary Meeting**  
(12 October 2016 at 10.00, Hofburg)  
(Agenda item 1)

**Madame Chairperson,**

The Delegation of Ukraine warmly welcomes today's speakers, and thanks them for their valuable contribution to the FSC discussion on the item "Women in the Armed Forces – increasing the representation of women in decision-making and operations".

Later this month we will mark sixteen years since the adoption of the UNSC landmark resolution 1325, establishing the basis for the women, peace and security agenda and calling for the special protection and full and equal participation of women in all conflict prevention, resolution and post-conflict peace building efforts.

We recognize the importance of implementing the Resolution 1325 to protect women's rights in times of conflict and support women's contribution to the whole peace process in Ukraine. The comprehensive engagement of women in conflict resolution, peace building and reconciliation efforts are essential.

In February this year the Government of Ukraine adopted a National Action Plan on the implementation of the Resolution 1325, developed in close consultations with the UN and OSCE agencies as well as civil society. The Action plan is aimed at promoting women's greater participation in military, political, economic and social life, peace and recovery processes, prevention and combating gender-based violence, reintegration of persons affected by the consequences of the on-going foreign aggression against my country.

We believe the OSCE, as a regional security organization, has an important role to play in facilitating the participating States' efforts to implement the UNSCR 1325 and stay committed to its implementation.

The Ukrainian national action plan was developed to promote women's equal, full and active participation in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace building and peacekeeping, and women's greater participation in military. A characteristic feature of the modern Armed Forces of Ukraine in today's democratic conditions is the active implementation of State gender

policy which aims at sustainable and fair development of the individual serviceperson, 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 Ukrainian Armed Forces women are mostly involved in such professions, as medical doctors, financiers and accountants, logisticians, communication officers. Recently, given the security situation in Ukraine this statistics is beginning to change.

According to the latest information of Ministry of Defence, in less than three months after adoption this June of the special order №292, 1006 women have been taken by the military service contract to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. This is almost 40% more than in the previous three months. Among them there are both combat and non-combat positions, such as: instructors, machine gunners, mortar-gunners, interpreters, scouts, snipers, and grenade launchers, the commanders of a combat vehicle, squad leaders, and anti-aircraft gunners. At the same time the main factor, which does not allow raising 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 small number of applicants.

### **Distinguished colleagues,**

Due to the presence of threats related to the armed conflict in the east of Ukraine the National Action Plan underlines the need to consolidate and optimal use of the potential of women in combating violence and establishing peace. The main aim of the implementation of the 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 and peace process.

Faced with the foreign aggression, Ukraine, in close cooperation with its international partners, is making efforts to address gender imbalances and to modernize its national gender policies with the view to promoting further full-fledged and effective participation of women in public and politico-military life as well as in Ukrainian Armed Forces, decision making and operations.

**Thank you, Madame Chairperson.**