



## **Enhancing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian Region**

International Conference

11-12 November

Almaty, Kazakhstan

### **VIDEO MESSAGE**

Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director, UN Women

Warm greetings from New York. I am honoured to be asked to address such a distinguished group of government representatives, civil society representatives and international partners on a topic that is a priority for UN Women and the United Nations at large. I thank Kazakhstan for hosting this important conference.

The conference takes place at an opportune moment. Only three weeks ago the UN Security Council, under the Presidency of Azerbaijan, held an Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security and adopted unanimously resolution 2122.

The new resolution is an extraordinary addition to our ever-evolving global norms and legal frameworks that now include seven resolutions by the Security Council as well as CEDAW's new general recommendation that gives guidance on the implementation of States obligations to guarantee women's rights in conflict contexts.

Resolution 2122 puts in place a roadmap for a more systematic approach to the implementation of commitments on women, peace and security. It brings the focus back on women's leadership and highlights the critical importance of gender equality and women's empowerment to international peace and security. It also makes clear the Council's commitment to a meaningful review of the implementation of this agenda in 2015.

Building on these global events the coming two days will provide an important **opportunity to look back and take stock of efforts and results** at the regional level – to share what has worked well and why and to identify areas where stronger action may be needed.

I understand many good initiatives are underway and that there are valuable experiences to be shared - ranging from the work of the women's peace committees in Kyrgyzstan to the implementation of National Action Plans in Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and the development in Afghanistan, as well as, individual countries' engagement in conflict resolution, peace operations, humanitarian efforts, peacebuilding and recovery. I applaud the efforts by a number of OSCE participating States to create an OSCE-wide action plan on women, peace and security.

This meeting is also an **opportunity to look forward**. The Security Council will hold a High-level Review in 2015 on the implementation of resolution 1325. That is less than two years away. The UN Secretary-General has been invited to undertake a global study highlighting good practice examples, as well as emerging trends and priorities for action. This study will provide the opportunity to draw attention to the emerging issues as well as positive examples in your region and countries.

While no doubt progress is being made, I am concerned that we are not seeing results at the pace that women rightfully expect of us. For this, we need to ensure that women can play their full role in peace and security. We know there is no shortage of women's leadership. However, there IS a shortage of opportunities for women to engage in conflict resolution and peace-building. We must create these opportunities and make sure we translate commitments to real action and measurable change on the ground.

I wish you a fruitful meeting and look forward to study the outcomes.

Thank you!