



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

1127th FSC Plenary Meeting

(11 February 2026)

Agenda Item 1, Security dialogue: “Women in the armed forces, challenges and perspectives.”

Mme Chairperson,

Ukraine thanks the Chairpersonship of France for organizing today’s Security Dialogue.

Distinguished colleagues,

I would like to express gratitude to all panelists for their meaningful contributions: **Captain Nils Bir, Colonel Corinne Robillart**, and my compatriot **Colonel Olha Bihar**, thank you for making it directly from the front line.

This discussion is rightly framed as an operational security issue. Modern armed forces require the full spectrum of talent available in society, and they must retain competent personnel, women and men, to remain effective. This is even more acute today, as Russia’s war against Ukraine has made force generation, resilience, and human resources inseparable from the broader security of the OSCE region.

In Ukraine’s case, the full-scale invasion has dramatically accelerated the integration of women across the Armed Forces in combat and support roles, from medical evacuation and air defence to logistics, intelligence, drone units, and command functions. **More than 70,000 women** are serving in the Armed Forces of Ukraine, and **over 5,500** are fighting on the front line. These figures are not only a measure of participation; they reflect a fundamental transformation in how a nation at war mobilises its human capital, and safeguards operational continuity.

The main guiding question posed today is why it is important for modern armed forces to enrol women. Ukraine's experience provides a clear answer: **because capability is built on competence, and dedication, and these are not gendered.** The armed forces that reflect society are more trusted by society, and trust is a prerequisite for resilience in wartime.

Esteemed colleagues,

Ukraine has made significant efforts to provide women with appropriate opportunities and meet their needs. And it's not just about providing equipment tailored to female service members. True, sustainable integration also requires safe and dignified service conditions: proper housing, reliable access to healthcare (including reproductive health services), and a robust framework of rights and protections.

A genuine commitment to women in the armed forces must extend beyond the uniform to encompass family and social realities: the demands of service don't end at the base gate. Meaningful family support, predictable rotation schedules wherever possible, and reliable access to mental health care are essential. This is a matter of sustainability for the entire military.

Mme Chairperson,

Allow me to conclude with one strategic point. Countering Russian aggression for already 12 years has clearly demonstrated that inclusive, modern defence institutions are stronger institutions. **Women's participation in the armed forces of Ukraine is a present operational reality.** We have to ensure that this reality is matched by systems that protect rights, deliver equal opportunities, and embed professionalism and accountability in line with OSCE principles and commitments.

Ukraine stands ready to keep sharing its lessons learned and best practices.

I thank you, Mme Chairperson.