

**Chairmanship: Slovenia**

**883rd PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 9 May 2018

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Suspended: 1 p.m.

Resumed: 3.10 p.m.

Closed: 5.10 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Benedejčič

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE: WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

- *Presentation by Ms. M. Nuciari, Head of the School of Management and Economics of the State University of Torino and Professor of Military Sociology at the Italian Army Academy*
- *Presentation by Ms. C. Hutchinson, NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security*
- *Presentation by Ambassador E. Apakan, Chief Monitor, OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine*
- *Presentation by Mr. J. Reynders, Steering Committee Member, MenEngage Europe*
- *Presentation by Ms. A. Darisuren, OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues*

Chairperson, Ms. M. Nuciari, Ms. C. Hutchinson, Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, Mr. J. Reynders, OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues (SEC.GAL/81/18 OSCE+), Bulgaria-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina;

the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/82/18), Canada (Annex 1), Switzerland, Croatia (Annex 2), Sweden, Holy See (FSC.DEL/77/18 OSCE+), Ukraine, Turkey, United States of America, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, Armenia, Slovenia (on behalf of the FSC Co-ordinator on Matters Relating to UNSCR 1325 (Italy))

Agenda item 2:           GENERAL STATEMENTS

*Situation in and around Ukraine:* Ukraine, Bulgaria-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/83/18), Canada, United States of America, Russian Federation

Agenda item 3:           ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a)    *Issuance of a corrigendum to FSC Decision No. 1/18 on the best practice guide on deactivation of small arms and light weapons (FSC.DEC/1/18/Corr.2):* Chairperson
- (b)    *Europe Day, celebrated on 9 May 2018:* Bulgaria-European Union (FSC.DEL/84/18)
- (c)    *Military exercise “Arrow 18”, being conducted from 7 to 18 May 2018 in Niinisalo, Finland:* Finland, Chairperson, Russian Federation
- (d)    *Briefing on the 79th meeting of the OSCE Communications Group and the 2018 Global Exchange of Military Information, held on 26 and 27 April 2018, respectively (FSC.GAL/46/18 Restr.):* Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre, Chairperson
- (e)    *Workshop on Reporting on SALW and the OSCE Online Reporting Tool, to be held on 29 May 2018 (SEC.GAL/53/18 Restr.):* Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre, Chairperson

4.    Next meeting:

Wednesday, 16 May 2018, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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**883rd Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 889, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CANADA**

Mr. Chairperson,

Good morning everyone. I would like to begin by thanking you, Ambassador Benedejčič, for having this important topic of discussion for today's Security Dialogue. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our guest speakers and thank them all for their informative and enlightening presentations, and to welcoming their efforts to advance gender equality and the goals of UNSCR 1325 and the subsequent resolutions regarding women, peace and security.

Mr. Chairperson,

Women, peace and security (WPS) is an integral part of the Government of Canada's feminist agenda, which prioritizes gender equality and the protection of the rights of women and girls. Evidence shows that reducing gaps in gender equality increases a society's level of peace. Evidence also shows that if given the opportunity, women – in all their diversity – can generate positive economic and social outcomes for their families, communities and countries. This is why Canada will support the full participation of local women's organizations to advance the WPS agenda in areas such as peace negotiations, conflict prevention, humanitarian action, and peace-building.

This feminist approach involves men and boys as partners in transformative change. Men and boys can be powerful actors in preventing gender-based violence and the marginalization of women and girls, as well as in creating opportunities for them. In this regard, we commend the Chair's leadership with promoting the objectives of the OSCE MenEngage Network and encourage all OSCE men to join the growing list of participants in this programme.

Mr. Chairperson,

Canada's approach to WPS is based on the understanding that addressing root causes of gender inequality requires the transformation of power relations associated with discrimination, coercion and violence in Canada and abroad. The Government of Canada has already moved decisively in this direction by implementing policy that puts women and girls – gender equality, empowerment and human rights – at the centre of decisions on humanitarian action, development assistance, and peace and security interventions. Indeed,

integrating gender into our whole-of-government security engagements is critical to securing better outcomes in: the use of early warning tools; natural disaster responses; defence and security capacity-building; peace operations; and post-conflict stabilization.

Our feminist commitment is evident in many recent announcements and launched initiatives, including the publication of Canada's new Defence Policy – Strong, Secure, Engaged – with its focus on gender equality and diversity. Our commitment is to recruit more women into the Canadian armed forces, and to address sexual misconduct in its ranks. This will enable Canada to deploy more effectively and allow us to lead by example. Similarly, our leadership in the Elsie Initiative, through which we are partnering with others in the pursuit of transformational changes regarding women's meaningful participation in peace operations, has seen us commit 6 million dollars to "pilot UN missions" and troop contributing countries to improve women's participation, as well as 15 million dollars for a global fund to support the deployment of women peacekeepers.

And in the context of Canada's presidency of the G7, a Gender Equality Advisory Council has been formed with the intention of promoting a transformative agenda, and supporting G7 leaders and ministers in ensuring that gender equality is integrated across all themes and activities. Prime Minister Trudeau encouraged the Council to be bold, but concrete and tangible, in the guidance they provide and to challenge G7 leaders to do more. In this regard, the Council most recently met on 25 and 26 April in Ottawa, where a working group on peace and security developed draft recommendations that will be provided to Prime Minister Trudeau and made public later this month. While I am not yet in a position to share the details of these recommendations, they will focus on critical WPS issues such as resourcing, political participation, conflict prevention, the protection of women's human rights, and trafficking in persons.

Mr. Chairperson,

Last year Canada launched its second National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security covering a five year period (2017–2022) representing a whole of government approach to advance the global WPS agenda. This new plan is more ambitious in scope, going beyond Foreign Affairs, National Defence and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, by including other important departments such as Public Safety, Justice and Immigration and Refugees Canada.

Canada's new NAP is focused on two main aspects: the meaningful participation of women in the whole conflict cycle, including in countering terrorism and violent extremism, with the establishment of gender-responsive actions, and the promotion and protection of women's and girls' human rights, including protection from sexual and gender-based violence.

We are now already starting the work on our first annual report which will be tabled in parliament this fall. This is an important step, an opportunity to take stock of achievements and shortcomings of our plan. It helps us track progress, take corrective action and be accountable to the Canadian public. In this spirit, we aim to be more factual and analytical in our reporting, and will require quality data from all partners and stakeholders, as well as greater consistency amongst partners in terms of basic information such as baseline data, targets and indicators.

Canada's NAP is a strong commitment by the government to place the WPS agenda at the centre of its international efforts, such as in the areas of deployments, capacity-building and recruitment. Women accounted for 24 per cent of Canadian police deployed to peace operations in 2015–2016, exceeding the UN goal of 20 per cent whilst women accounted for 13.5 per cent of the Canadian armed forces personnel deployed to UN and NATO operations, and we are keen to improve these numbers. Concomitantly, the Chief of the Defence Staff set a target of increasing the number of women in the Canadian military from 15 to 25 per cent, which will make more women available for deployment to international peace operations.

Mr. Chairperson,

If there is one message that I would like to emphasize today it is that the empowerment of women and girls in efforts to prevent, end and recover from armed conflict benefits us all. Gender equality and inclusive peace processes build more stable societies and is a critical precondition for a peaceful world for everyone: women, men, girls and boys. The rights of women and girls cannot and should not be compromised, and Canada will continue to implement policies and programmes to support them.

Mr. Chairperson, I would ask that you attach this statement to the journal of the day.

Thank you.



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**883rd Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 889, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CROATIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to thank the Slovenian Chairmanship of the FSC for holding this important debate and all the speakers for their statements.

Croatia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU and I would like to make some additional remarks in my national capacity. Let me begin by saying that Croatia actively supports and promotes the women, peace and security (WPS) agenda. We are one of the few EU Member States to have a specialized Ombudsperson for Gender Equality and a Government Office for Gender Equality.

The challenges with which our societies are confronted cannot be effectively addressed without the leadership and engagement of women. Croatia recognized long ago that in any society, lasting peace and security are elusive goals without the active engagement of women. More women in peace negotiations provide for more sustainable peace. Our leading peace negotiator in the peaceful reintegration of Croatia's war-stricken eastern Slavonia in the 1990s was a woman.

As stated by our Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Marija Pejčinović Burić, during her participation at the "G7+7" ministerial meeting in Toronto, Canada, the WPS agenda is integrated into our national policies and practices, and steps have been taken to integrate the gender perspective into our national foreign and security policy. (Congratulations to Canada for taking on the leadership role in advancing gender equality.) We are currently in the process of developing our second national action plan, which will be adopted soon and will cover both domestic and international activities.

Since 2003, a total of 339 Croatian women have served in peace missions and operations around the world. One of those women became Croatia's first female general and served as the first gender adviser to the NATO mission commander in Kabul. The latest data indicate that women make up 12 per cent of the personnel on active duty in the Croatian armed forces today.

In our regular police and military education and in the pre-deployment training of civilian and military personnel, particular attention has been paid to gender-related elements,

especially to prevention of and response to sexual violence and to a zero-tolerance policy on sexual abuse.

In line with our international pledge to strengthen the role of women in peace missions and operations, Croatia has over the last three years organized three pre-deployment training courses for women police officers from all over the world. In all, 35 women police officers from 19 countries of Africa, Asia and Europe have participated in this programme, and the fourth training cycle will be held this month.

Mr. Chairperson,

In conclusion, allow me to express my appreciation of the work carried out by the panellists and to address a few words to Ambassador Apakan. Last year, when I was one of a group of ambassadors visiting Special Monitoring Mission teams on the ground in eastern Ukraine, the team members with whom I was most impressed with were women monitors; the work which they carry out professionally in spite of daily adversities and the volatile security situation made a great impression on me. Let them know how much we appreciate them.