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FSC.DEL/399/23
27 October 2023

ENGLISH only



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS TO THE OSCE, THE UNITED NATIONS AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

Statement by the Delegation of Cyprus

1060th Plenary Meeting of the Forum for Security Cooperation (25 October 2023)
Agenda Item 1, Security Dialogue: “Women Peace and Security”

Madame Chair,
Distinguished panelists,
Dear colleagues,

The Republic of Cyprus fully subscribes to the statement made by the European Union, but I would like to add some additional remarks in our national capacity.

First of all, I want to warmly welcome, and thank you, distinguished Panelists, for your insightful presentations and for your active personal contribution in promoting and enhancing the WPS agenda.

The security situation in the OSCE area, including the unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine, as well as the mass exodus of Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh as well as the escalation of the conflict in the Middle East, show case, apart from their other grave implications, the importance of all four pillars of the WPS agenda.

And this is why this Security Dialogue convened today by the Chairpersonship of Canada, constitutes an active proof of the OSCE’s comprehensive commitment on Women Peace and Security, across all three dimensions, as integral part of our approach.

Ensuring women’s effective participation and leadership at all levels of decision-making is and shall remain a cross cutting priority.

Participation of women in the armed forces and at all stages of the conflict cycle is equally important. Security and sustainable peace cannot be fully achieved without safeguarding the role of women as critical actors.

Madame Chair,

Responding and in implementation of its international commitments, Cyprus has introduced, in 2021, its National Action Plan (WPS NAP) for the Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325.

This Action Plan consists of four main pillars covering, respectively, Participation and Empowerment, Protection, Prevention and Promotion/Information for the Resolution.

Its main objective is to identify the disproportionate and unprecedented consequences of armed conflicts on women and the utilisation of women's experiences in conflict prevention and resolution, as well as in the preservation of peace.

The Plan sets the framework for a coherent horizontal policy, which aims to create, among others, synergies between stakeholders, including the broader civil society.

The Action Plan provides, among others, for the establishment of a military gender advisory council that includes human security and the provisions of 1325.

It also provides for the development of a behavioural manual for personnel serving in military and civilian missions, on their obligation to respect and protect the rights of women and girls, including women serving in the military, during conflicts, peace processes and periods of building and maintenance of peace.

Madame Chair,

The overarching aim is for the WPS mainstreaming approach to become the norm and not an issue of debate. It is about ensuring that participation, protection, prevention and response, take into account the needs of all of our society.

We have all the necessary instruments at hand and I am confident that with our joint efforts and commitment we can achieve a lot.

Thank you.