



**80th JOINT MEETING OF THE
FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION
AND THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

1. Date: Wednesday, 10 March 2021 (via video teleconference)
- Opened: 10 a.m.
Closed: 1.40 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ms. C. Austrian (FSC) (United States of America)
Ambassador U. Funered (PC) (Sweden)

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson (FSC) reminded the participants of the technical modalities for the conduct of meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic, as outlined in FSC.GAL/2/21 OSCE+.

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

Agenda item 1: IMPLEMENTING UNSCR 1325 ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE FSC, ON THE OCCASION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

- *Presentation by Brigadier General J. Meyeraan, Deputy Director of Partnering, Security Cooperation and Missile Defense, United States European Command*
- *Presentation by Ms. A. Bell, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance, United States Department of State*
- *Presentation by Ms. C. de Jonge Oudraat, President of Women in International Security*

Chairperson (FSC), Chairperson (PC) (Annex 1), Secretary General (SEC.GAL/35/21), Brigadier General J. Meyeraan (FSC-PC.DEL/16/21 OSCE+), Ms. A. Bell (FSC-PC.DEL/17/21 OSCE+), Ms. C. de Jonge Oudraat (FSC-PC.DEL/18/21 OSCE+), Russian Federation (FSC-PC.DEL/3/21), Portugal-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro,

North Macedonia and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (Annex 2), France and Germany (also on behalf of Andorra, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Mongolia, Norway, Portugal-European Union, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden and the United States of America) (Annex 3), United Kingdom (FSC-PC.DEL/13/21 OSCE+), Holy See (Annex 4), Slovenia (FSC-PC.DEL/6/21 OSCE+), Canada (Annex 5), Switzerland (FSC-PC.DEL/21/21 OSCE+), Ukraine (FSC-PC.DEL/22/21), Malta (FSC-PC.DEL/23/21 OSCE+), France (FSC-PC.DEL/24/21 OSCE+), Cyprus (FSC-PC.DEL/7/21 OSCE+), Georgia (FSC-PC.DEL/20/21 OSCE+), Poland, Germany (Annex 6), Turkey (Annex 7) (Annex 8), Spain (Annex 9), Armenia (Annex 10), Norway, Italy (Annex 11), Liechtenstein (FSC-PC.DEL/4/21 OSCE+), Netherlands (FSC-PC.DEL/19/21 OSCE+), Afghanistan (Partner for Co-operation) (FSC-PC.DEL/9/21 OSCE+), Azerbaijan, FSC Co-ordinator for Matters Related to UNSCR 1325 (Albania) (Annex 12), Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Latvia) (Annex 13)

Agenda item 2: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Distribution of a draft letter from the Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation to the Chairperson of the Permanent Council on the dates of the 2021 Annual Security Review Conference (FSC.DEL/78/21 Restr.):* Chairperson (FSC)
- (b) *Invitation to expert consultations on a request by Azerbaijan for assistance with explosive hazards risk reduction and response action, to be held on 18 March 2021 (FSC.DEL/76/21/Corr.1 Restr.):* Chairperson (FSC) (Annex 14)
- (c) *Meeting of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, held via video teleconference on 25 February 2021:* Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Latvia) (Annex 15)

4. Next meeting:

To be announced



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation
Permanent Council**

FSC-PC.JOUR/67
10 March 2021
Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

80th Joint Meeting of the FSC and the PC
FSC-PC Journal No. 67, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

Dear colleagues,
Dear Ms. Austrian,

It is a pleasure for me to participate in today's meeting and to reflect on and discuss one of the cornerstones of the Swedish OSCE Chairmanship's programme: gender equality and women, peace and security.

Gender equality is a fundamental objective of Swedish policy – both nationally and in the realm of foreign affairs and security. I thank you, Ms. Austrian, and your team for organizing this important dialogue and I am very much looking forward to the interesting briefings and fruitful discussions that will take place today.

Increasing women's participation in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, in peace negotiations, mediation and peacebuilding is key to the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda. Time and again, women leaders and women's organizations have demonstrated their ability to lead on, and contribute to, crisis and conflict management. Women bring diversity and a different set of experiences, perspectives and skills to the table, allowing them to make essential contributions to decisions, policies and laws. Their networks are crucial for dialogue and co-operation, and the inclusion of women ensures that any actions taken will benefit society as a whole, both men and women.

Developments in this field over the past two decades, including the progress made, should encourage us all to step up our efforts. For example:

- Women's representation in national parliaments has over the past 20 years increased from approximately 13 per cent to around 25 per cent, although this share is still lower in conflict-affected countries;
- Between 1995 and 2019, the proportion of peace agreements with gender equality provisions increased from 14 per cent to 22 per cent;
- Between 1992 and 2019, however, women accounted for, on average, just 13 per cent of negotiators, 6 per cent of mediators and 6 per cent of signatories in major peace processes worldwide.

We have come far on the journey towards gender equality, but obviously there is still much left to be done. Twenty years after the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, the figures speak for themselves – it is not good enough.

The extensive research and accumulated knowledge on the role that women can and should play with regard to confidence- and security-building measures and peace processes must be translated into prompt action and real implementation on the ground.

Even if this is well meant, we must also cease to see women in conflicts simply as vulnerable victims. For women are often strong players who facilitate positive change and conflict management in their communities.

During the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting last week, the participants were asked whether participating States would be interested in exchanging good practices on increasing the participation of women in verification activities (see FSC.AIAM/3/21). To my astonishment, but also disappointment, a number of participants chose to answer along the following lines: “No, data on the participation of women are irrelevant to verification activities.” Even if only an isolated example, such an attitude is somewhat startling, since I honestly believed we had come beyond that. It certainly does not reflect the views that I frequently experience in my day-to-day work and interactions with so many of you. I can sense strong support for the promotion of gender equality and the women, peace and security agenda here in Vienna, but it would seem that this is not necessarily the case in all our participating States’ capitals. To be able to talk the talk, we also need to walk the walk.

Lack of political will and lack of resources are clearly obstructing gender equality. This must change. Regrettably, we have not managed to convince all stakeholders that women must naturally play a part at all levels in confidence- and security-building measures and peace processes. If we are to succeed in this, we must tirelessly keep the topic high on the agenda.

This week features several interesting and useful events, including today’s joint meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) and the Permanent Council. Similar events will continue to take place over the coming months. For example, I am pleased to note that Armenia has decided to focus on women, peace and security at the FSC meeting scheduled for 19 May, for which Sweden will provide a speaker.

If the pandemic situation allows, Sweden will invite all military advisers to an event in Stockholm on 30 September and 1 October in connection with the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, during which we will specifically focus on Sweden’s efforts to improve various aspects of women’s participation in the armed forces.

Additionally, I can also inform you that Sweden is considering a draft decision on women, peace and security for the Ministerial Council meeting to take place in Stockholm in December. We will provide you with more information in due course.

Let us now turn back to the interesting and productive meeting that lies ahead of us today – thank you very much.

Madam Chairperson, I kindly request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation
Permanent Council**

FSC-PC.JOUR/67
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Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

80th Joint Meeting of the FSC and the PC
FSC-PC Journal No. 67, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union and its Member States warmly welcome the distinguished speakers to this joint Forum for Security Co-operation and Permanent Council and thank them for their insightful presentations.

Following International Women's Day, and fully in line with this month's horizontal priority, we commend the US FSC Chairmanship and the Swedish Chairperson-in-Office for dedicating this joint meeting, to the women, peace and security agenda and for their commitment to its implementation.

Not only is the timing of this meeting appropriate, but also are the OSCE bodies involved. The European Union believes strongly that the women, peace and security agenda, consisting of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 and its follow-up United Nations Security Council resolution, is a cross-dimensional priority for both the Permanent Council and the FSC. The OSCE as a whole plays an important role in promoting and supporting the regional implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 and its subsequent resolutions.

Within the FSC however, there still remains untapped potential to advance the work on this landmark resolution. In this context, the European Union regrets that no Ministerial Council decision could be reached last year in Tirana. The strong message given by the 52 participating States subscribing to the joint statement on United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, demonstrates that there is a willingness to advance the work of the FSC in this domain and make additional efforts. The European Union therefore underscores this topic should remain high on our agenda, as it is of the greatest importance for the OSCE in general and the FSC in particular.

The women, peace and security agenda focuses on women's full, equal and meaningful participation in peace and security related decision-making processes, including crisis and conflict prevention, peace processes and relief and recovery, as well as on protection from conflict-related violence. The agenda stresses that gender equality is embedded in peace and security issues, and that gender perspectives are integral to peace and security. In addition, it states that addressing gender-related root causes of violence is critical for conflict prevention. In fact, there is ample evidence indicating chances of implementing peace agreements increase significantly when women are fully involved throughout the peace process.

The realization of gender equality is a fundamental value of the European Union and we strive to remain a frontrunner in the global arena in engaging, empowering, protecting, and supporting women and girls to achieve peace and security. Through its Women, Peace and Security Action Plan, the European Union recognizes gender equality and women's empowerment as a prerequisite for dealing effectively with the conflict cycle, including conflict resolution, mediation, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and post-conflict reconstruction.

Women's leadership in all policy areas related to peace and security is crucial. The European Union is committed to ensuring that women and girls participate equally and substantially in preventing and resolving conflicts, and in the prevention of and protection from conflict-related violence, including all forms of sexual and gender-based violence. Inclusion is not only a right, it is also the most effective way to achieve stability and peace. The European Union therefore encourages the active use of the OSCE toolkit "Inclusion of Women and Effective Peace Processes".

Although we all, the OSCE and the participating States, have made efforts to implement United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 and have seen several success stories, there is still much work to be done: continued and robust engagement at the OSCE senior level, enhancing women's meaningful participation in these processes and the systematic integration of the gender perspective throughout all policy areas.

To achieve this, the OSCE needs to continue improving our existing commitments. We believe the following concrete ideas listed in the 2020 joint statement on United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 are a good starting point:

- (a) The creation of a plan of action for the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all aspects of the FSC areas of work, including all levels of decision-making and leadership;
- (b) The establishment of national focal points on gender equality to facilitate the development, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review of the aforementioned plan of action;
- (c) The facilitation of gender mainstreaming in SALW/SCA controls and in practical assistance work;
- (d) The promotion of the information exchange on issues pertaining to women peace and security, also through the Code of Conduct.

The European Union remains convinced that a strengthened commitment to women, peace and security and women's participation in all OSCE activities would contribute to the OSCE comprehensive security approach and thereby strengthen the Organization. Neglecting to carry out gender analysis and to integrate a gender perspective would negatively impact the ability to achieve peace and security and thus the OSCE's role as a regional security organization. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic illustrates the need for gender-sensitive crisis response mechanisms even more.

We call on the OSCE to continue its efforts to ensure equal representation of women at all levels with the aim to achieve a gender balance, especially at senior and decision-making levels, in all the OSCE structures and field missions. The European Union further underlines the role of the participating States in this matter in relation to the seconded positions in the OSCE. We must all continue our efforts to identify and remove all barriers to women and men's equal participation, also in the sector of peace and security. Therefore, we strongly advocate for balanced panels within our Organization as a starting point to achieve these ambitions.

Equal opportunity and representation are a matter of democracy and inclusive security. Hence, we encourage strengthening the ties to, and working closer with civil society, local, regional and international civil society organizations, grassroots activists, women human rights defenders and women's rights organizations. The European Union also commends all the initiatives, including informal networks such as Women in the First Dimension, Women Ambassadors and MenEngage, that support the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda within the OSCE. The latter is crucial since we believe in the importance of engaging men and boys as positive agents for change, addressing gender stereotypes and societal exclusion mechanisms.

We stress the need for continued close engagement and co-operation between the participating States, partners for co-operation, the OSCE Secretariat, the field missions and the autonomous institutions, at all stages of the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda and throughout the realization process.

In conclusion, the European Union calls on the OSCE and the participating States to amplify our efforts on the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda. After 20 years it is high time that we close the implementation gap.

Madam Chairperson, I kindly request this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

The candidate countries the Republic of North Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹, Serbia¹ and Albania¹, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Free Trade Association country Iceland, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Andorra and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

1 The Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
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Annex 3

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**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATIONS OF FRANCE AND GERMANY
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF ANDORRA, BULGARIA, CANADA,
CYPRUS, FINLAND, FRANCE, GEORGIA, GERMANY, LATVIA,
LIECHTENSTEIN, LITHUANIA, MALTA, MONGOLIA, NORWAY,
PORTUGAL-EUROPEAN UNION, ROMANIA, SAN MARINO, SERBIA,
SLOVENIA, SWEDEN AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)**

Madam Co-Chairpersons,

This statement is delivered on behalf of the three informal networks, Women Ambassadors, MenEngage and Women in the First Dimension.

Let me begin by saying how pleased we are to have for the first time a common statement by the informal networks seeking to contribute to the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 – each in its own ways.

The network of the Women Ambassadors works to highlight the importance of women's participation at all stages and at all levels of conflict prevention, peace negotiations and peace-building processes and in high-level decision-making forums. Research has shown that women's participation in peace processes is vital for sustainable peace and long-term solutions. As an organization we must be engaged and aware about the various gender-based challenges, ensuring gender-sensitive leadership and management so that all employees are guaranteed security and equal opportunities. A concrete means to strengthen women as agents for peace is working through Women Mediators' Networks. At the OSCE, we can step up our efforts to connect women's networks from various parts of the OSCE area with each other, and to strengthen links to civil society. The Women Ambassadors network is committed to reinforcing these networks, and to ensuring that women's voices are part of the dialogue, strengthening the conversation across the OSCE.

The MenEngage Network recognizes that it is not just women who have a stake in issues of gender equality and in the women, peace and security agenda. It is important for all of us to be involved (including men) to support and enable a conducive environment for diversity, to stand up against any form of discrimination, and to ensure all members of society are part of decisions that affect our comprehensive security. This benefits everyone. Men and boys are critical agents of change. We believe in educating ourselves (including learning through bystander and ally training), supporting zero tolerance policies on sexual

harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse, and promoting women's full, equal and meaningful participation in all areas of conflict prevention, resolution, mediation and rehabilitation.

The youngest of the networks, Women in the First Dimension, was launched a year ago, on 11 March. The overall aim of Women in the First Dimension is to empower and enhance the visibility of women professionals in the first dimension, in collaboration with their male colleagues and to serve as a networking platform. Women in the First Dimension is not a classic like-minded group: it is a diverse network connecting members from different geographical backgrounds and experiences. It manages to create tangible outcomes and is open to all interested members of OSCE delegations here in Vienna. Early this year, it has successfully launched a pilot phase of a mentoring programme. The programme is aimed at all colleagues in the first dimension. It facilitates an exchange not only between senior and junior colleagues but also between women and men, military and political colleagues. A first full-fledged mentoring programme is planned for the fall of 2021. Women in the First Dimension also established a list of women experts on first dimension topics. This list is accessible to all participating States, but specifically aimed at rotating chairmanships in the first dimension.

Madam Co-Chairpersons,

Our three networks believe in actions. As a clear indication of intent, we are encouraging all members in our network to undertake implicit bias training this week, echoing steps being taken in the OSCE's executive structures. And we look forward to further initiatives throughout the year.

In closing the Women Ambassadors, MenEngage and Women in the First Dimension networks underline their commitment for sustained efforts toward our shared goals of promoting gender equality, as well as the substantial participation of women in all work of the OSCE.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
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FSC-PC.JOUR/67
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Annex 4

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80th Joint Meeting of the FSC and the PC
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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE HOLY SEE

Madam Chairperson,

My delegation would like to thank the US Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) and the Swedish OSCE Chairmanship for organizing this joint meeting on women, peace and security.

On several occasions, the Holy See has reiterated its position on the importance of “women’s full and equal participation in all phases of conflict prevention, resolution and peace-building”.¹ Indeed, evidence has shown that the most comprehensive understanding possible of the root causes of conflicts and of the solutions required to end these can be attained when women’s expertise is duly taken into account and effectively harnessed at all levels. My delegation notes with appreciation that such a consensual approach to the implementation of the OSCE commitments related to women, peace and security has been appropriately reflected in the concept note for today’s meeting (FSC-PC.DEL/1/21 OSCE+).

At the same time, we must bear in mind that our agreed commitments with regard to United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) limit the OSCE’s engagement to the implementation of those parts of the resolution that are directly related to “the role of women in all levels of conflict prevention, crisis management and resolution, and post-conflict rehabilitation”,² and also to the participation of women in “post-conflict reconstruction processes”.³

In this respect, concentrating on those areas that are pertinent to the work and scope of our Organization not only does justice to the OSCE’s unique character, but also further guarantees the co-operation of all participating States on achieving these common commitments. On the other hand, presuming that “the full implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions in the OSCE area” is part of our agreed commitments, as expressed in the concept note for today’s meeting, would interfere with our common striving to foster the

1 Ministerial Council Decision No. 14/05 (MC.DEC/14/05) on women in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.
2 Ministerial Council Decision No 14/05, operative paragraph 2.
3 Ministerial Council Decision No 14/04 (MC.DEC/14/04) on the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, operative paragraph 36; see also operative paragraph 44(e).

role of women in peace and security. My delegation is convinced that only a precise and qualitative focus on our consensually agreed OSCE commitments can lead to tangible results and demonstrate the effectiveness of our Organization in this field.

Finally, allow me to conclude with these words by Pope Francis: “If we take to heart the importance of the future, if we dream of a future of peace, we need to give space to women.”⁴

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

4 Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to members of the American Jewish Committee, 8 March 2019.



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Annex 5

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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CANADA

Madam Chairperson,

Canada echoes others in thanking our esteemed panellists for their contributions to our dialogue on United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, and we welcome the continued focus on the roles of women in peace and security.

Let me begin by first reiterating the call made by the esteemed Ambassador from the United Kingdom to the five participating States who did chose not to participate in the joint statement at last December's Ministerial Council. Canada joins this call for those participating States to re-evaluate this position and consider the positive impact consensus collaboration on this effort might have.

Women, peace and security is an integral part of the Government of Canada's foreign policy, which prioritizes gender equality and protection of the rights of women and girls. We are proud of the contribution of efforts such as the Elsie Initiative, both in increasing participation of women in the security services and in ensuring their full and meaningful participation throughout all aspects of peace and security.

Canada is committed to promoting and protecting the human rights and well-being of women and girls worldwide, a critical way to prevent and respond to conflicts and to build a more peaceful and prosperous world. The women, peace and security agenda is at the core of this commitment. Implementing Canada's whole-of-government Women, Peace and Security National Action Plan is at the heart of our national defence policy, our feminist foreign policy, and our feminist international assistance policy.

Madam Chairperson,

Women serve in all roles and at all levels in the Canadian armed forces. Removing restrictions on women's employment in the armed forces and opening all aspects of service to the entire population has allowed Canada to recruit the most qualified and talented individuals available for over 20 years. The Canadian armed forces delivers gender-based analysis (GBA+) and diversity training across the service on an ongoing basis, and benefits from the enhanced capabilities found in a more diverse fighting force. The balance of perspective and talent that this diversity brings is an invaluable asset and key force multiplier, increasing our capability and operational readiness. As an example of this, I am proud to

share with you that Canada announced just yesterday that Lieutenant General Frances Allen, currently Canada's National Military Representative at NATO, will become the first woman to serve as the Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff, the second highest-ranking position in the Canadian armed forces. In another appointment, Brigadier General Lise Bourgon, a career Royal Canadian Air Force maritime helicopter pilot, will be the first woman to serve as Commandant of Royal Military College of Canada. These appointments reflect a career of excellence and expertise that these strong and impressive women will bring to the table to lead the Canadian armed forces into the future.

Despite significant efforts, women remain under-represented in peace operations worldwide. Lack of promotion opportunities and access to training, and latent institutionalized barriers are all still widespread. In order to attract the invaluable talents, skills and expertise of women to the security sector, we must be able to show that we have equal, valuable, and important roles for them, that their work will be valued and that their contributions will make a difference. We must deserve them, and multilateral dialogues such as the FSC have an important role to play in this effort.

Madam Chairperson,

We had hoped that the 20th Anniversary of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 would have provided an impetus for tangible progress on a Ministerial decision at the Tirana Ministerial Council. Unfortunately, the politicization of this topic by one participating State resulted in the total blocking of this effort, despite the existence of overwhelming support across the vast majority of participating States, as demonstrated by the joint statement signed by 52 participating States at last year's Ministerial Council.

This joint statement captured many of the broadly supported ideas which could serve as tangible progress on furthering the women, peace and security agenda, particularly in areas more specific to the FSC's mandate. Canada remains fully supportive of these proposals, as highlighted in the FSC Chairperson's concept note for this session.

In particular, we will continue to advocate for all OSCE participating States to develop national action plans on women, peace and security, and to encourage continuous improvement for those already in place. We also very much support tangible progress on the following:

- Development of a plan of action for the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in all aspects of the FSC's area of work;
- Continued promotion of the exchange of issues pertaining to women, peace and security through the Code of Conduct on Political-Military Aspects of Security; and
- Efforts to facilitate gender mainstreaming in small arms and light weapons-/stockpiles of conventional ammunition-related activities, including practical assistance projects.

Canada reiterates our strong belief in the value of the OSCE's various dialogue fora as venues to continue constructive and collaborative dialogue on this critical security issue, and we will continue to advocate for the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in all roles and at all levels of the armed forces and security services across the OSCE.

United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 and the women, peace and security agenda are not tangential to security, they are core issues for OSCE participating States, and for the FSC. We strongly encourage continued efforts towards a tangible women, peace and security-related outcome at the upcoming Ministerial Council in Stockholm. It is time for the OSCE, and the FSC in particular to demonstrate progress on this agenda. Frankly, it is long overdue.

Madam Chairperson,

Let me end by repeating our key message: the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women and girls in preventing, ending, and recovering from conflict benefits us all. When women play an active role in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, and when their rights are respected, we are better able to achieve long-term, sustainable peace. Gender equality and inclusive peace processes build more stable societies and are critical preconditions for a peaceful world for everyone: women, men, girls and boys.

Thank you.



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Annex 6

ENGLISH
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**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY**

Madam Chairperson,

Germany supports the statement made on behalf of the European Union.

I should like to make a few more points in a national capacity.

The maintenance of peace and security,

The protection of human rights,

Joint multilateral action.

These are the cornerstones of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325.

These are three goals that are at the very heart of the OSCE.

Women's rights are human rights. United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 addresses women's rights and the fact that women's participation is also a question of stability and security.

We are all aware that:

- Peace treaties negotiated with the participation of women are longer lasting;
- Societies in which all sections of the population can participate equally in political life are more stable;
- Foreign, security and development policies that integrate a gender perspective are more effective.

Nevertheless, more than 20 years after the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, we have not yet fulfilled our mandate to implement resolution 1325 and its follow-up resolutions in a sustainable manner.

I should therefore like to clearly underline our call, issued jointly in the statement made on behalf of the European Union, to further promote the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 and its follow-up resolutions in the OSCE as well.

For Germany, the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 and its follow-up resolutions is a high priority:

- In our multilateral work;
- In our actions in crisis regions; and
- At home.

To this end, the Federal Cabinet adopted the Federal Government's third Action Plan on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda (2021–2024) on 24 February 2021.

With the third Action Plan, the German Federal Government presents its strategy for implementing the women, peace and security agenda for the next four years. The goal is to promote the implementation of the agenda in all areas:

- Crisis prevention;
- Participation;
- Protection and support; and
- Humanitarian aid, crisis management and reconstruction.

For the first time, the Federal Government has also defined clear indicators in this national Action Plan in order to be able to objectively measure how we are progressing towards that goal.

For example, in the future, quantitative data will be collected on which projects address women, peace and security as a cross-cutting measure or how the Federal Government's education courses and training measures approach the issue.

We also want to ensure that there is even greater awareness of the women, peace and security agenda both internationally and in Germany.

By the middle of the year, we will appoint permanent women, peace and security contact persons at our embassies and permanent missions in fragile States, conflict-affected States and multilateral locations.

We will also make women, peace and security an integral part of our diplomacy education and training programmes. For example, it will be part of the new gender module in the seminars for heads of diplomatic missions abroad.

Germany is convinced that it is only together that we can implement the women, peace and security agenda, with States, international organizations and civil society in close

partnership. Our common goal remains, at the national level as well as here in the OSCE, to achieve the full and equal participation of women in peace and security processes and to put an end to sexual and gender-based violence.

That is a goal worth fighting for.

Thank you.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



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FSC-PC.JOUR/67
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Annex 7

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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY

Thank you, Madam Chairperson,

We should like to congratulate you on the recent International Women's Day, and we commend the US Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) and the Swedish OSCE Chairmanship for dedicating today's joint meeting to that important occasion.

We appreciate the insightful and comprehensive presentations given by all three panellists.

Today's meeting will provide us with a valuable opportunity to share ideas and best practices on how to enhance implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 in the OSCE area and beyond.

As you no doubt remember, the women, peace and security agenda was also one of the priorities for the Turkish FSC Chairmanship last year.

We likewise strongly supported the joint statement on United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 that was issued at the Tirana Ministerial Council.

We commend the Swedish OSCE Chairmanship for recently launching an advisory group of experts to strengthen efforts on the women, peace and security agenda in the OSCE area.

Madam Chairperson,

It is unfortunate that civilians, particularly women and children, account for the vast majority of those adversely affected by armed conflicts.

There is a worldwide need for the full implementation of international humanitarian and human rights law, which is meant to protect the rights of women and girls before, during and after conflicts.

United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 is an important milestone in this regard. The protection of women and their participation in conflict resolution and post-conflict peacebuilding must become standard practice everywhere.

Ensuring that women have access not only to careers in the armed forces but also to participation in peace processes, including peace operations and mediation, is equally important. Sadly, according to UN-Women, between 1992 and 2019, women accounted for just 13 per cent of negotiators, 6 per cent of mediators and 6 per cent of signatories in major peace processes worldwide.

Madam Chairperson,

Turkey continues to attach utmost importance to the use of a gender perspective as an integral part of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security.

We call for the adoption of the draft "OSCE-wide Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security" co-sponsored by Austria, Finland, Kazakhstan and Turkey. This plan seeks to enhance our tools for implementing existing commitments in the field of women, peace and security. We hope that the Action Plan will eventually be adopted.

In addition, in the spirit of sharing good practices, Turkey provided voluntary information on its implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 in its responses to the Questionnaire on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security.

Madam Chairperson,

Turkey supports the empowerment and well-being of women and girls in various emergency, conflict and post-conflict situations through its comprehensive development assistance programmes.

The projects we carried out in Afghanistan and Somalia, especially those dealing with education and health services, are cases in point.

Turkey is also making every effort to provide security and safety to Syrian women and girls who have fled from the conflict in Syria.

Since 2014, psychological and social support has been provided to nearly 400,000 refugees to ensure that they are able to adapt to our country and have access to the public services on offer.

The necessary legal steps are taken to protect refugee women who have been victims of violence.

All women seeking asylum in Turkey who are identified as victims of violence have the right to stay in women's shelters. They also receive assistance from the country's several Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centres.

More than 100,000 Syrian girls and women have received vocational training, accounting for over 72 per cent of the total number of participants.

Overall, across all the training opportunities offered to externally displaced persons in Turkey, 61 per cent of the recipients were women.

Similar programmes for Syrian women and girls in Turkey will continue.

Madam Chairperson,

In conclusion, we believe that it is high time to take stock of our efforts and discuss the most efficient ways of promoting the women, peace and security agenda in our Organization. The level of engagement in the OSCE should be kept up unabated. The present joint meeting will contribute to our efforts in this regard.

We request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation
Permanent Council**

FSC-PC.JOUR/67
10 March 2021
Annex 8

Original: ENGLISH

80th Joint Meeting of the FSC and the PC
FSC-PC Journal No. 67, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY**

Madam Chairperson,

We regret to have to take the floor once again to exercise our right of reply.

I should like to clarify some of the points raised by the Armenian delegation.

Unfortunately, the Armenian delegation has dared to exploit today's joint meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) and the Permanent Council to continue its smear campaign against Turkey.

We totally reject all those unfounded accusations levelled against our country.

Turkey is determined to eradicate the threat of terrorism, from whichever direction it comes, including ASALA, PKK/YPG/PYD, DEASH or FETÖ.

Madam Chairperson,

Armenia's statement is alarming for us, since it signals that they will continue with their miserable provocations.

As you know, Armenia is a member of the FSC Troika. That country is the next in line to hold the Chairmanship of the Forum. We trust that the Armenian delegation will behave responsibly and not exploit our shared platform to engage in hate speech against its neighbours. Otherwise, our joint efforts in the politico-military dimension may well be wrecked.

I should also like to take this opportunity to recall a very simple and ironic fact, namely that Armenia is violating even its basic obligations under the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and the Vienna Document.

Madam Chairperson,

The Armenian delegation's aggressive and harsh rhetoric is undermining the prospects for peace, stability and prosperity in the Southern Caucasus.

We remind the Armenian delegation once again that it is time to turn over a new leaf, to change the paradigm of its behaviour and to try to be actually part of the solution.

The Southern Caucasus needs peace, stability, co-operation and collaboration in good faith. Peaceful coexistence is possible. It is high time to promote the discourse of peace, not hatred. To that end, Turkey will continue to call on Armenia to adopt rational and sensible policies, instead of engaging in pointless and self-destructive acts of provocation.

Madam Chairperson, we kindly request you to attach this statement to the journal of the day.

Thank you.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation
Permanent Council**

FSC-PC.JOUR/67
10 March 2021
Annex 9

ENGLISH
Original: SPANISH

80th Joint Meeting of the FSC and the PC
FSC-PC Journal No. 67, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SPAIN

Thank you, Madam Co-Chairpersons.

Spain fully aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union.

I should also like to convey my sincere thanks to you for having included this item on the agenda of the joint meeting of the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation, and to all the speakers for their valuable presentations. They all pointed out the vital importance of continuing co-ordinated efforts to build on United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security.

This year we are once again celebrating International Women's Day in extraordinary circumstances. The COVID-19 crisis highlights the fragility of the progress made and reminds us of how far we still have to go in order to advance the women, peace and security agenda in a manner consistent with our commitments and objectives. For that reason, Spain has continued to develop a feminist foreign policy, within which the women, peace and security agenda is one of our priorities.

Against this background, I should like to focus on three issues: the crucial significance for the effectiveness of the women, peace and security agenda of the participation and leadership of women; the importance of continuing to develop the women, peace and security agenda; and the prominent role of women in the Spanish armed forces.

The development of the women, peace and security agenda has enabled us to observe a fundamental change: from the consideration of women as victims of armed conflicts and, in particular, of sexual violence in conflict to their consideration as essential actors in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in the subsequent reconstruction. The participation and leadership of women is essential for the effectiveness of the women, peace and security agenda and also for adequately addressing the impact of the pandemic in conflict situations. The COVID-19 crisis reminds us of the pressing need to advance the empowerment of women on all fronts and in all areas, not only as a matter of justice and equality, but also of efficacy.

The continued development of the women, peace and security agenda is also essential to ensure its effectiveness. In that regard, I should like to mention briefly some initiatives for

developing the women, peace and security agenda that are of particular importance to the Spanish delegation.

- (a) The Women, Peace and Security Focal Points Network was one of the commitments announced by Spain during the high-level open debate in 2015. Launched in 2016, it has more than 80 members, including the OSCE. Currently co-chaired by Canada and Uruguay, this operational network has demonstrated its effectiveness through the exchange of experiences and the stimulus it gives to the commitments of States and organizations to advance the objectives of the agenda.
- (b) Spain has promoted two important resolutions on this issue: (i) The resolution on women and girls and the response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, which includes important elements on the necessary participation of women in all phases of conflict resolution, the role of women peacebuilders, and the fight against sexual violence. (ii) During its mandate in the Human Rights Council, Spain presented a resolution on promoting and protecting the human rights of women and girls on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325.
- (c) Spain and Finland launched the joint initiative “Commitments 2025” to ensure the effective participation of women in peace processes. We believe that it could serve as a road map to ensure that women participate effectively in peace processes.

Furthermore, I should like to recall that it has been more than 30 years since the armed forces in Spain were opened to women and, that since the entry into force of Law No. 17/99, the Regulation of the Armed Forces Personnel Act, absolute equality between men and women has been upheld without any restrictions and with full access for women to all military units, ranks and postings.

As of 1 January 2021, there were 15,591 women (including trainees) in the Spanish armed forces, accounting for 12.9 per cent of the total number of military personnel on active duty. The average number of women in our armed forces is higher than the average among our neighbouring countries, which is around 11.3 per cent. Moreover, as of 1 January 2021, the Spanish armed forces had a total of 182 women deployed on missions abroad, accounting for 7.7 per cent of the total number of military personnel on such missions.

These initiatives and commitments bear witness to the vital importance that Spain attaches to compliance with and implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions, and to the efforts it has been making in that regard. The implementation of the women, peace and security agenda is more urgent today than ever.

Thank you.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation
Permanent Council**

FSC-PC.JOUR/67
10 March 2021
Annex 10

Original: ENGLISH

80th Joint Meeting of the FSC and the PC
FSC-PC Journal No. 67, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA**

Madam Chairperson,

At the outset I should like to thank the US Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) and the Swedish OSCE Chairmanship for organizing today's discussion on this important topic. The four pillars of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 – participation, prevention, protection, and relief and recovery – are complementary and cross-cutting, and thus, need a cross-dimensional approach. In this regard, we commend the US FSC Chairmanship for its initiative in organizing this joint meeting of the Forum and the Permanent Council. We also thank the panellists for their thought-provoking presentations.

Madam Co-Chairpersons,

In 2000, the Security Council of the United Nations adopted resolution 1325 recognizing the specific needs and role of women before, during and after conflicts. Today, 21 years later, armed conflicts and violence are still part of the world we live in. We should thus be cautious in not falling into routineness when referring to the women, peace and security agenda and not losing the essence of the resolution.

Madam Co-Chairpersons,

In addition to addressing the multilayered challenges to the implementation of resolution 1325 – including uncontrolled accumulation of weapons, violations of international humanitarian law, the lack of political will, and patriarchy – the effective implementation of the resolution is possible only when gender equality and human rights are seen as integral parts of the women, peace and security agenda. The protection of human rights – first and foremost the right to life and security – should guide us all in our efforts to promote the women, peace and security agenda. It is our responsibility to create a safer security environment so that women have opportunities to contribute to a safer world.

Madam Co-Chairpersons,

The implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 is among the priorities of the Republic of Armenia which is supported by the implementation of the National Action Plan, increasing the engagement of women in the security sector, promoting

their political participation and economic empowerment, including through OSCE programmatic activities.

However, each of our meetings should serve as an opportunity to present not merely positive developments, but also the reality – and even inconvenient truths – concerning the situation with the women, peace and security agenda in the OSCE area of responsibility. On 27 September 2020, Azerbaijan unleashed a war against Artsakh with the direct involvement of Turkey and latter’s affiliated foreign terrorist fighters. Azerbaijan used banned weapons and instrumentalized foreign terrorist fighters to commit crimes against civilians, including women and girls. During this 44-day violent war, a number of Armenian women, including civilians and members of the armed forces, were killed. There have also been cases of mutilation and torture. Among the victims of such atrocities were Nina Davityan and Elena Hakobyan, two residents of the Hadrut region of Artsakh, aged 83 and 68 years respectively, who were found beheaded in their homes. Furthermore, the Azerbaijani armed forces using large-calibre rocket systems deliberately attacked the maternity hospital in Stepanakert, the capital city of Artsakh. Many women have been captured during and after the war, and some of them are still being held in captivity in violation of the provisions of international humanitarian law and the trilateral ceasefire statement of 9 November 2020. We have already brought up the case of Ms. Maral Najarian, a Lebanese Armenian, mother of two, who fled Beirut after the devastating explosion in the seaport of Beirut had been living in Artsakh before the start of the war. She and her husband returned to Artsakh after the cessation of hostilities in order to collect their belongings and have been reported missing since then. It took more than a month after her disappearance for Azerbaijan to confirm to the European Court of Human Rights that she was in their custody. She is currently still being held captive in Azerbaijan on trumped-up charges in clear defiance of international humanitarian law and the relevant obligations of Azerbaijan.

Madam Co-Chairpersons,

United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 emphasizes the responsibility of all States to put an end to impunity for crimes against humanity and war crimes. We should bear in mind that words are not enough to achieve progress. Commitments should be reinforced by actions. Thus, we call on the participating States to take collective, responsible and resolute steps to eliminate the likelihood of wars and violence so that there is no need to pursue new frameworks for making wars and violence “safe” for women, which will show how the international community approaches the issue of human security.

I kindly ask you to attach this statement to the journal of the day.

Thank you.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation
Permanent Council**

FSC-PC.JOUR/67
10 March 2021
Annex 11

ENGLISH
Original: ITALIAN

80th Joint Meeting of the FSC and the PC
FSC-PC Journal No. 67, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ITALY

Madam Chairperson,

Italy aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union. While emphasizing my support for the joint statement by three informal networks (Women Ambassadors, MenEngage and Women in the First Dimension), I should now like to add a few comments in a national capacity.

First of all, I should like to thank the Swedish Chairmanship of the OSCE and the US Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation for devoting this meeting to resolution 1325, which remains among Italy's foreign policy priorities. I should also like to thank the speakers for their very interesting contributions to the discussion.

I am pleased to be able to inform you that, on 10 December, our institutions approved the Fourth National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, covering the years 2020 to 2024. It has been allocated a substantial budget to finance projects and measures to strengthen gender equality in this area over the next three years.

In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the new Plan pursues the following four objectives:

- Promoting the role of women in peace processes and in all decision-making processes;
- Strengthening the gender perspective in peace operations;
- Empowering women in conflict and post-conflict areas, together with gender equality and protection of the human rights of women and girls;
- Strengthening communication, promotion and training activities on the women, peace and security agenda, also with a view to fostering synergies with civil society.

At the international level, our commitment became more evident after Italy launched the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network in October 2017, which is now established as an important point of reference on the international women, peace and security agenda.

Today, the Network, consisting of more than 60 specialist mediators from 21 countries in the Mediterranean area, provides training and opportunities for discussion. The partnership with other regional institutions led in 2019 to the establishment of the Global Alliance of Regional Women Mediator Networks.

Madam Chairperson,

Twenty years after the adoption of resolution 1325, we believe that the international community must step up its efforts to fully implement it. The number of States to have adopted a national plan still falls short of expectations, and the figure becomes even more unsatisfactory if those countries that have earmarked adequate funds for their national plans are considered.

In fact, women still remain under-represented in peace processes, despite their essential contribution, and the OSCE, in our view, has a role to play in that regard.

In conclusion, I should like to confirm that Italy will continue to contribute to the implementation and promotion of resolution 1325, also within the framework of this Organization.

Madam Chairperson, I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the meeting.

Thank you.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation
Permanent Council**

FSC-PC.JOUR/67
10 March 2021
Annex 12

Original: ENGLISH

80th Joint Meeting of the FSC and the PC
FSC-PC Journal No. 67, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE FSC CO-ORDINATOR FOR MATTERS RELATED TO
UNSCR 1325 (ALBANIA)**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear colleagues,

It is an honour for me to address this joint meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) and the Permanent Council in my capacity as the FSC Co-ordinator for Matters Related to UNSCR 1325.

I should like to start by commending our esteemed guest speakers for the valuable contributions, experience and insights that they brought to today's meeting – and, more specifically, for the concrete proposals that they included in their presentations.

Madam Chairperson,
Dear colleagues,

Regrettably, consensus was not reached at the Tirana Ministerial Council meeting in December 2020 with regard to the substantial draft decision put forward by the then German FSC Chairmanship concerning the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 in the areas of work of the FSC.

However, the joint statement on the resolution delivered at the Ministerial Council meeting, which was endorsed by altogether 52 participating States, reflected a strong determination to continue advancing the women, peace and security agenda in the FSC's areas of work. The joint statement in particular made eight concrete proposals for additional efforts that warrant further discussion within the FSC.

Indeed, there is a long overdue need to exchange ideas on how to further promote the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 and the key agenda of women, peace and security as part of our core work.

It is necessary to move forward with specific and well-thought-out steps. Political will is called for in order to implement this cross-cutting and not in the least confrontational agenda, which should unify us all rather than open up divisions.

Speaking of concrete steps: in their joint statement (FSC-PC.DEL/5/21), the OSCE's three informal gender networks – OSCE Women Ambassadors and Representatives, MenEngage and Women in the First Dimension – laid out a series of practical commitments as part of their forward-looking and inclusive vision for an enabling environment that supports diversity.

As a member of the Women in the First Dimension Network, I should like to highlight two practical initiatives of the Network that are currently under way: a mentoring programme and the establishment of a list of female experts on politico-military topics.

Madam Chairperson,

I want to encourage the participating States to continue submitting voluntary additional information related to their implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 when answering the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. The submission of such information is an integral part of the annual information exchange on the Code, which demonstrates participating States' commitment to transparency, building confidence and security, promoting regional stability and sharing common values.

Furthermore, I wish to recall the success of the now well-established OSCE Scholarship for Peace and Security training programme – a joint initiative of our Organization and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs that is based on Security Council resolution 1325 and enables young professionals, in particular women from the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation, to enhance their participation in policymaking, planning and implementation processes in the fields of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation.

Madam Chairperson,

Before concluding this statement I should like to refer to the observation by Deputy Assistant Secretary Alexandra Bell on how failing to prioritize the women, peace and security agenda has a negative impact on the security of us all.

I genuinely believe that United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 can serve as a purely unifying agenda among the OSCE participating States. However, our Organization should on no account try to duplicate the efforts of the United Nations in this field. It should, rather, concentrate on assessing the resolution's implementation in the OSCE area, identifying gaps, looking for ways of remedying these and taking further practical steps in the FSC's areas of work that can help to enhance the implementation of this landmark instrument.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

I kindly request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation
Permanent Council**

FSC-PC.JOUR/67
10 March 2021
Annex 13

Original: ENGLISH

80th Joint Meeting of the FSC and the PC
FSC-PC Journal No. 67, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE INFORMAL GROUP OF
FRIENDS ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND
STOCKPILES OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION (LATVIA)**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.
Dear colleagues,
Distinguished speakers,

In my capacity as Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, I should like to start by thanking the distinguished speakers for their valuable and thought-provoking presentations on the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security. Resolution 1325 remains a landmark instrument that continues to provide us all with the opportunity to make real and lasting contributions to our collective security. We should do all we can to work together on supporting its implementation at the national, regional and international level.

In the spirit of today's Security Dialogue, I should like to join the previous speakers in recalling Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/17 on small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA). In particular, I wish to draw attention to how that decision tasked the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) with "addressing the impact of excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALW and SCA on women and children" and with "creating equal opportunities for women's participation in policymaking, planning and implementation processes to combat illicit SALW as well as with regard to the OSCE assistance projects in the field of SALW and SCA" (MC.DEC/10/17). In the 2018 Ministerial Council Declaration on OSCE Efforts in the Field of Norms and Best Practices on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (MC.DOC/5/18), the foreign ministers of the OSCE participating States reinforced the urgency of those tasks by expressing themselves "concerned about the negative impact of illicit trafficking in SALW on our societies, noting in particular the impact on women and children", and by acknowledging "the need for the OSCE to continue to enhance its SALW- and SCA-related norms and best practices and their implementation".

At the second Biennial Meeting to Assess the Implementation of the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA, which took place in October 2020, the need for gender mainstreaming in the OSCE's work on normative and practical assistance was highlighted.

Incorporating gender aspects both into participating States' SALW- and SCA-related policies and into OSCE standards and practical assistance in these fields would contribute significantly to our joint efforts to combat illicit trafficking in SALW and SCA effectively.

Madam Chairperson,

I would stress that the rationale for gender mainstreaming in SALW/SCA action is threefold: (1) as a contribution to gender equality; (2) to promote more effective SALW control and SCA management; and (3) to advance the implementation of global commitments and obligations.

I should like to recall the following concrete suggestions made at the second Biennial Meeting to Assess the Implementation of the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA. Participating States were encouraged to:

- Look beyond merely increasing the number of women participants and, rather, to seek to achieve diverse representation in decision-making, notably by ensuring equality of access to such positions and by supporting career development;
- Ensure the adequate funding of mechanisms for the collection of disaggregated data related to the needs of survivors;
- Streamline related policies through the development of national action plans on the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 in conjunction with their action plans on SALW control, and by defining interrelated goals and indicators.

It was precisely in order to translate commitments into actions that the “Survey of Suggestions” from the second Biennial Meeting (SEC.GAL/179/20 dated 26 November 2020) proposed concrete measures like the ones I have just cited. I would recommend that these measures be incorporated into the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW (2010), which needs to be updated. This would provide us with a goal-oriented approach that we can use as we strive to fulfil the instructions from Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/17.

As we are now well into the process of updating the OSCE Best Practice Guides on SALW and SCA, and are also proposing to develop new ones, it is the right moment to ensure that gender aspects are reflected, where appropriate, in the text of these and all other relevant OSCE documents. I hope that the lessons learned from, and the discussions held during, today's joint meeting of the FSC and the Permanent Council will further motivate and guide us in our efforts on the gender mainstreaming of best practices and mechanisms related to SALW and SCA. I would encourage you to make use of FSC Working Group A to elaborate on gender aspects when discussing the drafts of updated best practice guides and proposals for revising the OSCE's assistance mechanism.

Dear colleagues,

In closing, allow me to add my voice in support of all the initiatives, including formal networks, that seek to promote the women, peace and security agenda within the OSCE, such

as the OSCE Women Ambassadors and Representatives, the MenEngage Network and the Women in the First Dimension Network. I wish them all every success in their endeavours.

Thank you for your attention.

I kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation
Permanent Council**

FSC-PC.JOUR/67
10 March 2021
Annex 14

Original: ENGLISH

80th Joint Meeting of the FSC and the PC
FSC-PC Journal No. 67, Agenda item 2(b)

**STATEMENT BY
THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FORUM FOR SECURITY
CO-OPERATION**

I have two items to raise as Chairperson. First, I wish to direct your attention to the Chairperson's letter circulated on 8 March under FSC.DEL/78/21 which recommends that the Forum agree to the proposed dates of 29 June to 1 July for the Annual Security Review Conference in accordance with a draft Permanent Council decision.

Second, I would like to remind you of the Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)/Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) Expert Consultation Meeting on the Request for Assistance Regarding Explosive Hazards Risk Reduction and Response in Azerbaijan scheduled for next week on 18 March at 3 p.m. An invitation was distributed under FSC.DEL/76/21/Corr.1 dated 3 March 2021. The FSC Chairmanship would like to note that it bears no responsibility for the content of Annex D and its attachments and has circulated it without altering its content. The distribution of that annex is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States. This statement will be attached to the journal of the day.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation
Permanent Council**

FSC-PC.JOUR/67
10 March 2021
Annex 15

Original: ENGLISH

80th Joint Meeting of the FSC and the PC
FSC-PC Journal No. 67, Agenda item 2(c)

**STATEMENT BY
THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE INFORMAL GROUP OF FRIENDS ON
SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND STOCKPILES OF
CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION (LATVIA)**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Dear colleagues,

In my capacity as Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA), I should like to take this opportunity to inform you about the Group's most recent meeting, which took place on 25 February 2021 via video teleconference.

The meeting was attended by 56 participants from 28 OSCE participating States (Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Norway, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) and from the OSCE's Conflict Prevention Centre. Out of the total number of participants, 14 were women.

The aim of the Informal Group's meeting was to provide an overview of progress in updating the OSCE Best Practice Guides (BPGs) on SALW and conventional ammunition, to brief the participants on the outcomes of the Expert Meeting held on 18 February 2021, and to give an update on the development of new BPGs and OSCE normative documents on SALW and conventional ammunition.

Dear colleagues,

I am very pleased to note that nine out of the 17 existing BPGs are currently either being reviewed, updated, or have been adopted. After being reviewed at the informal Expert Meeting on 18 February, the BPG on Ammunition Transportation and the BPG on Ammunition Marking, Registration, and Record-Keeping will soon be put on the agenda of Working Group A of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). I thank Germany for taking the lead on updating these two BPGs. As you are aware, three other BPGs, the update process for which was led by the United States, are already being scrutinized by the participating States within FSC Working Group A. I wish to reiterate that the BPG update process depends

entirely on the participating States. Although this process is complex and time-consuming, dealing as it does with “living” documents, it is very much worthwhile to pursue a regular update cycle and to be proactive throughout. The BPGs are not mandated decisions that States must adhere to unflinchingly, which means that, on the whole, they are not politically sensitive and so should be able to attract consensus.

Dear colleagues,

I should also like to commend France for deciding to take the lead on updating the BPG on Marking, Record-Keeping and Traceability of SALW, and Sweden for doing the same with respect to the BPG on SALW in Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Processes. I encourage other participating States that originally authored or sponsored the remaining eight BPGs to take the lead on initiating the update process for these, or otherwise to initiate discussions aimed at assessing whether they continue to be relevant and applicable, and whether they need to be updated in some way or other.

At the meeting of the Informal Group of Friends on 25 February, the development of new OSCE Best Practice Guides and normative documents on SALW and conventional ammunition were presented. Austria provided an update on two of its initiatives: on the further operationalizing of SALW and conventional ammunition related norms, principles and measures on preventing, combating and investigating illicit trafficking, and on the food-for-thought paper of 21 December 2020 (FSC.DEL/335/20) on the assistance mechanism under the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA. Spain updated the Group on the draft BPG on the prevention of illicit trafficking in SALW and/or ammunition by sea and inland waterways. Although this proposal is already on the agenda of FSC Working Group A, the Informal Group of Friends continues to serve as an informal platform for clarifying and commenting on issues pertaining to the process.

A perception paper reflecting these discussions and the outcomes of the 25 February meeting of the Informal Group of Friends was distributed to the delegations and missions of the OSCE participating States on 5 March 2021 (FSC.DEL/77/21).

I should like to thank all the participants and distinguished delegations of OSCE participating States that supported this meeting and contributed to its success.

I also wish to extend my gratitude to the FSC Support Section for providing invaluable subject matter expertise and technical support.

Thank you very much for your attention.

I kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.