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**Chairmanship: Switzerland****911th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 27 March 2019

Opened: 10.15 a.m.

Suspended: 12.40 p.m.

Resumed: 2.30 p.m.

Closed: 4.40 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador C. Wild  
Ms. M. Wyss Ross

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE ON WOMEN, PEACE AND  
SECURITY: “PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE  
SECURITY SECTOR: FROM THE WHY TO THE HOW”

– *Presentation by H.E. Ms. A. Frick, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Justice and  
Culture, Liechtenstein*

– *Presentation by Brigadier General V. Batut, Ministry of the Armed Forces,  
France*

Chairperson, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Justice and Culture of Liechtenstein (FSC.DEL/61/19 OSCE+), Brigadier General V. Batut, Romania-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 and San Marino, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/66/19), United States of America, Moldova (FSC.DEL/69/19 OSCE+), Slovenia (Annex 1), Holy See (FSC.DEL/59/19 OSCE+), Sweden (FSC.DEL/65/19 OSCE+), Romania, France, Finland, Spain (Annex 2), Azerbaijan, United Kingdom, Canada (Annex 3), Georgia (FSC.DEL/68/19 OSCE+), Turkey, Norway, Armenia, Switzerland (FSC.DEL/63/19 OSCE+),

Ukraine (FSC.DEL/72/19 OSCE+), Russian Federation, Italy (FSC.DEL/64/19 OSCE+), FSC Co-ordinator on Matters Relating to UNSCR 1325 (Italy)

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

- (a) *Situation in and around Ukraine: Ukraine (FSC.DEL/73/19 OSCE+), Romania-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; 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/67/19), Russian Federation, United States of America, Canada*
- (b) *Report by the Chairperson of the closing session of the 29th Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting, held in Vienna on 5 and 6 March 2019: Luxembourg*

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Meeting of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, to be held on 2 April 2019 (FSC.GAL/35/19 Restr.): Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Latvia)*
- (b) *Briefing on the military exercise “Arctic Challenge Exercise 2019”, to be conducted from 22 to 31 May 2019: Sweden, Chairperson*
- (c) *Administrative announcement regarding the remaining meetings of the FSC to be held under the Swiss FSC Chairmanship: Chairperson*
- (d) *Responses to questions raised during the Security Dialogue on “Aspects of Modern Warfare” at the 907th plenary meeting of the FSC, held on 6 February 2019: Chairperson*

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 3 April 2019, at 11 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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**911th Plenary Meeting**  
FSC Journal No. 917, Agenda item 1

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SLOVENIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

I should like to commend the Swiss FSC Chairmanship for organizing this Security Dialogue on the important topic of women, peace and security, and to thank Foreign Minister Frick of Liechtenstein and Brigadier General Batut of France for their excellent presentations. As you pointed out yourself, the aim of this event is to cause the debate on gender mainstreaming in the security sector to move on from the “why” to the “how” stage. Permit me, therefore, to observe that as the Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the OSCE I fully support this approach. On the basis of my experience as the Chairperson of the OSCE MenEngage Network, however, I should like to point out that there are still many “doubting Thomases” out there. Of course, this biblical idiom is by no means an allusion to our Secretary General, who is not only a member of the Network, but also a recognized International Gender Champion. But it is precisely because sceptics still abound, Mr. Chairperson, that we should never tire of explaining “why” promoting equal opportunities for women and men in the OSCE’s first dimension is both the right and smart thing to do.

I shall now, though, put on my national hat again, and, as a complement to what has already been said on behalf of the European Union, briefly inform you on “how” we do it in Slovenia. First, I should like to point out that, in our experience, it is important to promote the visibility of women who occupy leadership positions, since that sends out an important signal to society. Our country has already seen women hold the key ministerial portfolios of defence and the interior. Last year, a further step was taken with the appointment of a female Chief of the General Staff and a female Director General of the Police. In other words, both the armed forces and the police in Slovenia today are headed by women.

Second, we have discovered that national action plans on the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 need to take account more effectively of new trends and emerging security challenges. Our second national action plan, which we adopted last year, was therefore shortened in duration to cover three rather than five years. Some changes have also been made to its structure so that, instead of three priority areas, it now has five. The new areas are “education and training” and “accountability”. These additions are consistent with, *inter alia*, the introduction of systematic awareness-raising in the Slovenian armed forces and police to ensure that when responding to new security challenges we never lose sight of women’s rights. Such changes have been specifically informed by our experiences

with the integration of a gender perspective in the management of large flows of migrants and refugees on the Western Balkan route in 2015–2016 and in countering violent extremism. As far as accountability is concerned, we intend to continue setting high standards for our military and police personnel who are deployed to operations and missions abroad, especially when their mandate is to protect women and girls and to end sexual and gender-based violence in conflict situations.

Lastly, I should like to point out that in order to make its implementation more efficient, the new national action plan includes some changes regarding monitoring and reporting. It calls for the preparation of annual reports and the submission of a final report to the Government at the end of the three-year period. Ownership and monitoring have also been strengthened by the addition of a requirement to hold regular meetings between directors and experts from relevant ministries and civil society representatives. This, in our view, will also help to enhance co-operation among the various stakeholders.

Before concluding, I should like to take this opportunity to pose a few questions to the distinguished panellists:

Foreign Minister Frick, the fact that you trained as a military pilot in the Swiss armed forces is not only impressive, but also establishes a special connection between Liechtenstein and my country, since the Slovenian armed forces use the Swiss-made Pilatus PC-9 aircraft, even for the purposes of joint terminal attack controller (JTAC) training in collaboration with NATO Allies and partners. The baseline study report on “Women in the Armed Forces in the OSCE Region”, which was issued by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) last year during the Slovenian FSC Chairmanship, emphasizes the need to ensure that new military equipment is designed and procured on the basis of ergonomic data for both men and women. May I therefore ask whether during your training to become a military pilot you encountered any issues with equipment that had been designed primarily for men?

Brigadier General Batut, I noticed that in your presentation you said that gender mainstreaming in the French armed forces had only really taken off after the introduction of professionalization. I would therefore be interested to hear your opinion on any connection between equal opportunities in the security sector and an all-professional army, as opposed to a conscript one.

With this, Mr. Chairperson, I should like to congratulate you again for holding this Security Dialogue and 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**

FSC.JOUR/917  
27 March 2019  
Annex 2

ENGLISH  
Original: SPANISH

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**911th Plenary Meeting**  
FSC Journal No. 917, Agenda item 1

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SPAIN**

Mr. Chairperson,

I thank you for including this highly topical issue in our agenda today and for the interesting presentations. Spain fully subscribes to the statement by the European Union, and I should like at the same time to make a statement on behalf of my country to share with the delegations of all the participating States Spain's most recent experience in the implementation of resolution 1325 in connection with the subject that has brought us here today.

Women have a fundamental role to play in increasing the operational effectiveness of the security sector and establishing sustainable peace and security at the global level.

Reforms to integrate the gender perspective in the security sector through cross-cutting gender mainstreaming in all the dimensions (security forces, government, justice and civil society) and equal participation are a crucial part of security sector reform in all States.

The Spanish foreign affairs strategy places women at the centre of its policy, moving from a protective view, where they were considered solely as victims of conflicts – either through sexual assault or as a weapon of war, especially in the second half of the twentieth century – to one where women play a crucial role in peace management and the reconstruction of their community.

Resolution 2242 (2015), approved during the Spanish Presidency of the Security Council, reiterates the importance of the representation of women at all decision-making levels, and in particular women's meaningful inclusion in negotiating parties' delegations to peace talks.

The creation and practical implementation of the National Focal Points Co-ordinating Network, under the impetus of Spain within the United Nations, offers an accountability mechanism that encourages the participation of civil society in monitoring. The Network represents an excellent initiative to give the participation of women in conflict prevention and peace-building the status it deserves, while offering an opportunity for our country to

contribute to the provision of global public goods, such as international peace and security and gender equality.

Spain is currently implementing the second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security over a period of six years (2017–2023), whose main objective is to prioritize the role of women as agents of peace by enhancing their role in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and the construction of lasting peace, especially through our participation in missions abroad.

The elaboration of a second Action Plan offers an ideal opportunity to incorporate some of the remaining challenges in the women, peace and security agenda in the field of women’s empowerment, such as having more women leaders at all decision-making levels – in the resolution and management of conflict and post-conflict situations or in the promotion of expertise in the field of mediation.

### **Spain’s vision of women in the security sector**

Experience has shown the importance of women as peacemakers as a result of the different vision that women and men have of the same armed conflict, one that has developed in line with the historical or traditional roles assigned to them in combat. In that respect, women are much more pragmatic, more able to leave aside the causes of the problem, to focus on the consequences and their implication for the future, and to seek to put an end to it, which is why their presence and active participation in negotiation and conflict resolution measures constitute a guarantee of success.

Another element to consider is the importance of the presence of female military personnel in operations with different cultural contexts, where only female military personnel have the ability to interact with the local female population and to understand their needs at first hand. The gender equality and advisory factor in operations is already integrated into the planning process. Spain suggests complete integration of the gender perspective in all stages of an operation, from its conception to its completion. The participation of women in international peace missions, in peace negotiations or in the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, among other things, clearly increases the effectiveness of these processes. We also want to strengthen the role of women as mediators.

### **Spain’s activities in this field**

Actively involving women and men on an equal footing within our own missions and institutions as well as in the post-conflict reconstruction of societies is a matter of operational effectiveness. This involves changes in the way we plan and carry out our operations, which is precisely what the “gender in operations” training courses conducted collaboratively by the ministries of foreign affairs and defence of Spain and the Netherlands are aimed at.

We currently organize two types of courses:

- A course entitled “A Comprehensive Approach to Gender in Operations”, in collaboration with the European Security and Defence College;
- A course entitled “Gender and Security Sector Reform”.

The courses are intended for military and civilian personnel who have been or will be deployed in UN, NATO, EU, OSCE and African Union operations. They describe the general theoretical concepts in the resolutions related to the women, peace and security agenda, general concepts of gender, gender and international humanitarian law, gender and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) and security sector reform (SSR), gender and conflict resolution, gender and the protection of civilians, sexual violence in conflict and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA). Many practical cases are studied at the operational and tactical level. The courses are taught in Spanish for Spanish personnel (in Granada) and in English for international personnel (in Madrid, The Hague and Nairobi). The Government of the United States of America is also involved in the international course taught in Africa. To date, 250 Spanish participants have been trained in the course in Spanish and 1,082 international participants from more than 75 nations, including 26 African nations, in the international course.

The next course, “A Comprehensive Approach to Gender in Operations”, will take place from 20 to 24 May in Madrid. We will be circulating the announcement shortly, so that interested participating States can register before 5 April. We encourage all participating States to take this opportunity to increase their number of experts in implementing security sector reform in the countries where they are deployed.

With our contribution to the OSCE-United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs training programme for young women in disarmament and non-proliferation, Spain maintains a platform for promoting education in disarmament and non-proliferation issues among young professionals, in particular women, thereby strengthening the three priority areas in the OSCE: youth, disarmament and non-proliferation, and women, peace and security.

### **Women, peace and security: Spain and the OSCE**

The gender perspective of the OSCE in the security sector is based on instruments such as technical assistance to governments for the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 and the publication of documents to promote the participation of women in the different stages of a conflict, and ensures that women’s groups are included in the processes of conflict resolution and reconstruction of societies.

Spain will continue its support and encouragement of the OSCE’s efforts in this regard, through the organization of specific women, peace and security events and meetings as well as the inclusion of the gender perspective in all its actions, through the OSCE Gender Section.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



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**911th Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 917, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CANADA**

Mr. Chairperson,

Good morning everyone. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to both Minister Frick and Générale de brigade Batut, and to thank them for their informative and enlightening presentations, for their personal contributions to peace and security, and for their efforts to advance gender equality and the goals of UN Security Council resolution 1325 and the subsequent resolutions regarding women, peace and security. *Ce fut un plaisir de vous écouter ce matin, et je vous remercie d'être venus à Vienne parmi nous* (It was a pleasure to listen to you this morning, and I thank you for being with us in Vienna.).

Mr. Chairperson,

Women, peace and security (WPS) is an integral part of Canada's feminist agenda, which prioritizes gender equality and upholding of the rights of women and girls. Following the launch of Canada's second National Action Plan on WPS in November 2017, we have submitted a progress report which has shown an increase of funding, the launch of multiple new initiatives, increased work with civil society, and called upon Canadian officials at home and abroad to mobilize support for women as active agents of peace and security. The goals set in the second National Action Plan are ambitious, aiming to create behaviour-changing results, but they need to come with the understanding that lasting change takes time and sustained efforts by all.

Canada's approach to WPS is based on the understanding that addressing the root causes of gender inequality requires the transformation of power relations associated with discrimination, coercion and violence in Canada and abroad. To this end, Canada launched the Elsie Initiative for Women in Peace Operations in 2017, to increase the number of women peacekeepers globally, and make their work environment more inclusive, and ultimately more effective.

We have done this successfully ourselves in our Operation PRESENCE in Mali, and in our police training mission in Ukraine.

We have also launched, with the United Kingdom and Bangladesh, the WPS Chief of Defence Staff Network to drive transformative cultural and institutional change within national armed forces, and would encourage other OSCE participating States to join this



network. During Canada's 2018 G7 presidency, we sought to advance gender equality including via a G7 Summit announcement, committing 3.8 billion dollars to increase educational opportunities for women and girls in fragile, crisis and conflict situations and the G7 WPS Partnerships Initiative, launched jointly by G7 members and eight partnership countries, to further advance gender equality and women's rights in fragile and conflict-affected States.

Mr. Chairperson,

The vast majority of occupations in the Canadian armed forces were made fully available to women in 1987 with the last barrier, submariner, becoming unrestricted on 8 March 2000, making the Canadian armed forces a fully gender-integrated national institution where women can serve in any occupation and in any environment. After almost 20 years of working to create armed forces where there are no barriers to the employment of women, our experience has proven that opening all aspects of service to the entire population allows Canada to truly access the most qualified and talented individuals available for service. The balance of perspective and talent a more diversified workforce brings to bear has proven to be an invaluable asset and key force multiplier in increasing capability and operational readiness.

Nevertheless, Canada's efforts to advance the WPS agenda has not been without its challenges. We have come to realize that achieving enduring results that meet government ambitions will require frequent and honest reflection on the areas where it needs to improve. Administrative hurdles, measurement and attribution challenges, as well as challenges in operating in conflict contexts, oblige our Government to adapt its tools. Canada remains wholly committed to ensure that progress toward our WPS objectives continues steadily by overcoming these obstacles. As regards the OSCE, we would wholeheartedly support the suggestions just made by the representative of the United Kingdom.

Mr. Chairperson,

In closing, let me repeat once more our conviction 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 are critical preconditions to establishing 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 and in doing so strengthen its military and security forces.

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

Thank you.