



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation No 926 Vienna, 2 October 2019

EU Statement on the implementation of UNSCR 1325

The European Union and its Member States warmly welcome the distinguished Speakers, Colonel Magdalena Dvořáková, Colonel Christopher McKenna, Ms. Rebecca Blum and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Östman, to the Forum for Security Co-operation and thank them for their insightful presentations. We commend the Czech FSC Chairmanship for dedicating this Security Dialogue to the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and thank the FSC Co-ordinator for UNSCR 1325 for his commitment to this important topic.

Last week at the UN General Assembly in New York, the Sustainable Development Goals Summit was held. The summit was meant as a stocktaking conference on the progress of implementation of Agenda 2030 and aimed to offer a perspective on how far we have come... or rather how much we still have left to do. SDG 5 on Gender and Women's Empowerment holds parts of the framework of UNSCR 1325. We therefore look forward to receiving the outcomes from this Summit to help all OSCE participating States implement our commitments under UNSCR 1325 and provide useful information to map out our next steps.

We are convinced that the OSCE is well positioned to make a unique contribution to the WPS agenda and the FSC has a significant stake in this topic. Through the FSC, the participating States have a unique opportunity to promote the meaningful inclusion and participation of women throughout the OSCE region. We call on all participating States to bear in mind UNSCR 1325 and its subsequent resolutions when seconding new members to all OSCE missions and to have a National Action Plan in place. In line with this, we recall that the new SMM Chief Monitor underlined the crucial importance of increasing the number of female mission members in his last presentation in the PC on 5th September.

Inclusion of women at the decision-making level is indeed one of the most transformative aspects of implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda. Female representation and female leadership contribute significantly to the longevity of peace agreements, and we most strongly encourage further progress towards a balanced representation of men and women at all levels, including within the armed forces and other security sector agencies. We must include women in peace

processes, conflict resolution, countering violent extremism, and grassroots peace-building. Making the security sector safe and accessible to all, women and men, is essential to reach comprehensive security.

Last July, the EU adopted its new Action Plan on WPS in cooperation with EU Member States and civil society; it will serve as the implementing tool for the new EU Strategic Approach to Women, Peace and Security. We reiterate our support for the OSCE to adopt its own regional OSCE-wide Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR1325. We acknowledge and welcome the fact that several participating States and OSCE missions have already adopted their own action plans and we encourage all remaining participating States to take equal measures. We look forward to engaging with the international community on how we can further support the creation of National Action Plans in our participating States, and beyond.

Looking forward, we would encourage an extensive stocktaking on implementation, which would be very timely in view of the upcoming 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 next year. We want to echo what has been said, so many times before, here in the FSC: we must go from “why” to “how” and turn rhetoric into action. For the OSCE to become successful in this matter, we must raise our ambitions. We need better gender-analysis, more sex-disaggregated data, gender-expertise, leader accountability, and resources, and we must focus on practical ideas and solutions.

The EU remains determined to continue to lead globally on these issues, including in the OSCE context. We are committed to work together to strengthen our efforts towards full implementation of the WPS agenda and look forward to hearing the views of other participating States on their ideas on how we can continue to improve our work in this area.

The Candidate Countries REPUBLIC of NORTH MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, SERBIA* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND and LIECHTENSTEIN, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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