



## EUROPEAN UNION

### **OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation No 943 Vienna, 11 March 2020**

---

#### **EU Statement on the implementation of UNSCR 1325**

---

This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. For 20 years we have stressed the importance of implementing its agenda and underlined the necessity of ensuring inclusive security for all. In this context, we recall the agreement at the Ministerial Council in Bratislava last December on the Commemorative Declaration on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Code of Conduct in which the participating States reaffirmed their commitment to the women, peace and security agenda.

Today's meeting is the first Security Dialogue on WPS in 2020. We commend the Turkish Chairmanship for including this topic on their FSC agenda, in particular for the current session, three days after the International Women's Day, and for making it a priority for their Chairmanship. We wish to express our gratitude to today's speakers for their presentations, but more importantly for their daily contributions to a more inclusive security sector.

We would also like to take the opportunity to recall our commitments made in Istanbul 1999. In line with the Istanbul Document the EU remains committed to making equality between men and women an integral part of our policies, both at the level of our States and within the Organisation. The Ministerial Council in 2004 in Sofia adopted the OSCE Action Plan for the promotion of Gender Equality that still needs to be implemented. We also recall our unwavering support for the

proposed OSCE-wide Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, which seeks to support the implementation of relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.

The EU welcomes the Women in the First Dimension initiative and their working agenda, bringing more visibility to the work of women professionals in the First Dimension, beginning right here in the FSC, without prejudice to their male colleagues. We would like to thank the Turkish Chairmanship of the FSC for enabling this visibility.

The Women in the First Dimension initiative actively focuses on raising the voices of women, by creating a list with female speakers on political-military topics and establishing a mentoring program in the First Dimension. Bringing women into the process of negotiating, shaping and implementing security policy is crucial, also in the context of UNSCR 1325 – without representation of women in this process we cannot accomplish comprehensive security for the OSCE-region. Furthermore, we note in general an increasing number of formal and informal groups in the OSCE taking on the task of raising awareness and bringing change to the organisation and beyond. In the first-, second- and third-dimension women and men are mobilising for this cause. We commend these efforts and look forward to support and contribute to their work in implementing the WPS agenda.

This anniversary year gives us a good opportunity to review what we have done and to decide, together, how to more effectively monitor and implement our commitments. This is the year to reach the results we need, the results women deserve. To ensure comprehensive security, we must amplify our ambitions. We must increase our focus to reach tangible results and to deliver actual change where it is needed the most.

In this context, we would like to draw attention to the new EU Gender Equality Strategy for 2020-2025 that was launched last week in Brussels. It sets out key

actions for the next five years and commits to ensure an equality perspective in all EU policy areas, including Foreign and Security policy with a particular attention herein to the EU Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

Finally, we look forward to the Triannual Gender Review Conference that will take place this summer. This conference brings us a timely opportunity to realize these ambitions and we look forward to fruitful dialogues and exchanges to improve our efforts and to take concrete steps towards a more equal, diverse and inclusive security sector. This is the time for action.

The Candidate Countries the 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 country LIECHTENSTEIN, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with the statement.

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