



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°826 Vienna, 20 July 2016

EU Statement on the Role of Women in Conflict Resolution

The European Union and its Member States warmly welcome H.E. Baroness Anelay, Minister of State of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to the Forum for Security Co-operation, and thank her for the interesting and comprehensive presentation.

The promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women is an important priority for the European Union. A gender perspective, encompassing the equal participation of men and women, is both an essential goal and a means to help prevent and resolve conflicts and promote a culture of inclusive and sustainable peace. Having just celebrated the first International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict on 19 June, we reaffirm our strong support for zero tolerance to any form of sexual violence. Sexual violence in conflict continues to be used as a tactic of war and terror and can also significantly hinder peace-building and reconciliation efforts.

As already mentioned by the distinguished speaker, 16 years after the adoption of UNSCR 1325 and despite a number of subsequent commitments, women remain systematically and very significantly under-represented in mediation, negotiation and dialogue process. Such under-representation, as well as lack of gender awareness and expertise in negotiation teams, seriously limits the extent to which women's experience of conflict, and consequent needs for peacebuilding, justice and recovery, are addressed within these processes. We encourage women's participation throughout the conflict cycle, including in decision making and mediation and fully agree with Madame Minister that women's full and most importantly "effective" participation leads to more inclusive outcomes and contributes to lasting peace and a more gender equal society. The OSCE can and should show leadership in this regard, including by improving gender balance of its staff, especially in senior management positions. We are grateful for the concrete proposals on how the OSCE could improve its implementation of these aims. We also welcome the attention

devoted to gender-sensitive approaches in the framework of the conflict cycle informal working group led by the German Chairmanship. We expect a concrete follow-up to those valuable proposals and recommendations.

The EU established a strong basis for the implementation of the Resolution 1325 through its Comprehensive approach adopted in 2008. The Third implementation report for the period 2013-2015 will focus on the following four priority areas: transitional justice, women's political participation and economic empowerment, women's involvement in peace processes and preventing sexual violence in conflicts. Following the High-level review of UNSCR 1325 and the adoption of a new Resolution 2242 in October last year, the EU identified a number of thematic priorities in implementing the outcome of the Review, including strengthening efforts to enhance participation of women in crisis prevention and resolution.

The EU continues its efforts to integrate gender and UNSCR 1325 into Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). All EU CSDP missions and operations are expected to fully integrate human rights and gender in the planning, benchmarking, conduct and reporting, as well as in post-mission learning. All missions and operations have dedicated staff, advisers or focal points, responsible for gender. In its efforts to move from policy to practice on gender, peace and security, the EU is currently finalising a Baseline Study in Integrating Human Rights and Gender into CSDP.

The EU, as a security, development and political actor is heavily implicated in supporting conflict prevention, peace processes and addressing the consequences of conflict. Women Peace and Security issues remain of vital consideration in the EU external policies. This is demonstrated also by the EU's decision to allocate more than EUR 100 million over the next 7 years to gender equality, women and girls' empowerment projects to thoroughly mainstream gender and to include gender-specific actions in all the EU financial instruments.

Mr. Chairman, implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and related resolutions remains highly relevant for our Organisation. We recall in this context the preamble of Resolution 2242 underlining the important role of UN entities and regional organisations to implement fully the

relevant provisions of Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security. In this context, we echo Madame Minister's call for the adoption of an OSCE-Wide Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, which we continue to support. We also stress the importance of actively engaging with civil society, not the least women's groups, which is essential both for the implementation and monitoring of the Resolution. Therefore, we look forward to further engage with the OSCE and individual participating States in this important area of common interest.

Finally, we once again thank the Polish FSC Chairmanship for providing us with the opportunity to exchange views on this important topic. We underline the need of security dialogues such as this to take place regularly and to focus on the practical issues of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the subsequent resolutions on Women, Peace and Security in the OSCE area.

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

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