



**Permanent Mission of Ukraine**  
to the International  
Organizations in Vienna

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE**

### **1060<sup>th</sup> FSC Plenary Meeting**

(25 October 2023)

#### Agenda Item 1, Security Dialogue: “Women, Peace and Security”

Madam Chairperson,

We are grateful to the Canadian FSC Chairpersonship for the organisation of this Security Dialogue dedicated to the UN Security Council resolution 1325 and the Women, Peace and Security agenda. The contributions and leadership of women are critical to ensuring meaningful and sustainable peace and we strongly believe that this issue should remain among the key topics of the FSC discussions. We welcome the distinguished speakers and thank them for their insightful presentations on different aspects of this cross-cutting issue.

For Ukraine as a country that continues to confront an unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression waged by the Russian Federation, the topic of today’s Security dialogue is timely and relevant.

According to the UN-verified information, more than 3,000 women and girls were killed since the beginning of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Women and children make up 90% of people who have been forced to move to other countries to escape the hostilities.

Numerous credible reports of international humanitarian organisations, including those under the OSCE Moscow Mechanism, indicate that Ukrainian girls and women are subjected to

horrific cruelties, including sexual and gender-based violence and sexual harassment, perpetrated by Russian troops, as well as human trafficking and forced displacement.

Madam Chairperson,

With over 60,000 women in the Armed Forces of Ukraine, of which almost 43,000 are military personnel, women are not just victims of the war but active participants in the fight for our country's freedom and independence.

As was rightly underlined in the Concept Note to today's discussion, in order to translate policy commitments into actions, the participating States should develop and implement a National Action Plan on WPS to ensure that gender equality is integrated into military policies, strategies, and operations.

Ukraine fully shares this approach. In line with the 1999 OSCE Istanbul Document, gender equality is an integral part of our state policy. Despite the war, Ukraine maintains the gender equality agenda. And, although conditions have changed significantly, this area remains a priority for the Government of Ukraine, including in the context of European integration.

Ukraine's National Action Plan on the Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 "Women, Peace, Security" for the period until 2025 was updated in December 2022, taking into account the challenges caused by the full-scale war. In particular, the list of measures to improve women's participation in responding to armed aggression, help victims of the war, and provide effective and timely assistance to women and girls living in temporarily occupied territories or in areas of hostilities was expanded.

In the process of NAP implementation, a number of leading practices have been introduced in Ukraine, including gender analysis, gender audit and a gender-oriented approach to budget planning. These approaches are widely used in security and defence planning.

Relevant legislative work is ongoing to ensure that the legislation is fully compliant with the extremely dynamic situation:

In August 2023, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted amendments to the Law of Ukraine on Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Men and Women, aimed at improving legal protection of military personnel.

Earlier this month, two draft laws aimed at supporting of victims of sexual violence during the war were registered in the Verkhovna Rada.

In close coordination, the Government, the Parliament and representatives of civil society continue the work on the Draft Law aimed at ensuring equal rights and opportunities for men and women in the security and defence sector.

Madam Chairperson,

Leveraging women's participation and leadership is not only vital to ensure that humanitarian efforts respond to gender-specific and intersectional needs, but also a strategic investment in stronger resilience and self-reliance.

We remain fully convinced that the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution 1325 and all subsequent resolutions will be way more effective if national efforts are complemented by cooperation with international partners.

We highly appreciate the contribution of international organizations and bilateral development partners, who have actively responded to the humanitarian crisis resulting from the full-scale invasion of Ukraine and are implementing strategic programmes aimed at promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

Key participants include the parliament, Government, international development partners – such as the EU Delegation, USAID, UN Women, Sida, CIDA, NDI, IFES, UNFPA and others.

Ukraine supports the OSCE's efforts to promote the full implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. We commend the OSCE for its strong focus on this issue and express our readiness to contribute to this process.

We firmly believe that the related work on the WPS Agenda should continue to promote joint efforts to enhance and support women's participation in the defence and security sector at all levels and stages of decision-making.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.