



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°917 Vienna, 5 June 2019

EU Statement on Women, Peace and Security

1. The European Union and its Member States warmly welcome the speakers to the FSC and commend the Tajik FSC Chairmanship for including women, peace and security into the agenda of its Chairmanship as a topic of today's security dialogue. We welcome the angle you have chosen, Mr. Chairman, bringing to our attention practical experience to effectively integrate women in the defence and security sector and to identify measures to better implement UNSCR 1325 and subsequent resolutions with the aim to close the implementation gap.
2. Indeed, nearly two decades after the adoption of the landmark UNSCR 1325, women remain underrepresented in efforts to meaningfully participate in, influence and negotiate peaceful political processes to resolve conflicts. This is a cause for concern and more effort is needed worldwide in order to improve delivery on key commitments under the Women, Peace and Security agenda. Peace is more sustainable when women are fully included in peace processes.
3. Moreover, according to evidence countries and societies are more peaceful and enjoy a higher degree of well-being and prosperity when women have full and equal rights and opportunities. The full involvement of women is essential for sustainable development and conflict resolution. States and societies suffer from a fundamental lack of stability when women face restrictions and are excluded from political life. This confirms the importance and continued relevance of UNSCR 1325 and subsequent resolutions, as well as the fact that more gender equality contributes to resilience through peace and prosperity.
4. Mr. Chairperson, we would like to use this opportunity, also in the context of experience sharing, to present the work of the EU to this end. In December 2018 the Council of the EU adopted conclusions on women, peace and security (WPS). The Council recalled the commitments of the European Union and its Member

States to the full implementation of the WPS agenda, which consists of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and its follow-up resolutions, ensuring that it is fully integrated into all EU policies and efforts in promoting the important role of women's engagement in support of sustainable peace, security, human rights, justice and development.

5. In its conclusions, the Council welcomed the new EU strategic approach to WPS. This approach emphasizes the need for systematic integration of a gender perspective into all fields and activities in the domain of peace and security, and overall in EU external actions. It also emphasises the need for the EU to engage, empower, protect, and support women and girls in order to help all countries achieving sustainable and lasting peace and security as intrinsic components of human rights and sustainable development.
6. We recognise the crucial role of UN WOMEN, together with other relevant stakeholders, in helping our common efforts to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. Together with other regional organisations, including the OSCE, NATO and the African Union, we will continue our joint engagement to integrate a stronger gender dimension into all peace and security efforts. In this context we reiterate our support for the adoption of an OSCE-wide Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. We welcome and engage in all initiatives that help strengthen these efforts, such as the Global Network of Gender Focal Points, the Nordic and the Mediterranean Women Mediators Networks and the other Women Mediators' Networks, including the Women Mediators across the Commonwealth.
7. We note that the annual questionnaire on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security allows participating States to provide voluntary information on Women, Peace and Security. We encourage participating States to do so.
8. Finally, in view of the upcoming 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 in 2020 the EU reiterates its commitment to help all efforts for an even faster and more ambitious implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. To do this, we need better gender-analysis, more sex-disaggregated data, gender-expertise, leadership accountability and resources, and practical ideas and solutions to turn rhetoric into action.

9. Thank you for your attention.

The Candidate Countries TURKEY, 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 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.

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