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**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF NORWAY
on the Role of the Defence Sector in the implementation of UNSCR 1325 (2000)**

Delivered by Chargé d'Affaires a.i. ,
Minister Counsellor Mr. Henning Hj. JOHANSEN
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Check against delivery

**Madam Chair,
Minister,
Major General,
Your Excellences,**

I would like to start by thanking the Serbian Chairmanship for inviting to such an important discussion, giving us all an opportunity to elaborate on the role of the defence sector in the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

From a security and defence policy perspective, the 1325-agenda is NOT primarily about gender equality. It is more specifically about capability, operational effectiveness and mission success.

Let me make some points based on the Norwegian Defence' experiences and recent projects:

First, even the most modest (equality-) goals will not be reached unless we engage men in the armed forces. We do need *male* agents of change. Women, peace and security is not only the responsibility of women.

Second, the women, peace and security agenda is no "side event". It has to be fully integrated in the main event, be it a peace process or a military operation, to succeed.

Third, our experience in the ISAF Mission in Afghanistan is that gender advisors is a necessary, but not sufficient tool, and it has to be an integral part of the main effort.

Fourth, today's armed conflicts increasingly expose civilians to extreme violence, exacerbated by non-State armed groups as well as State armed forces. One of the most

devastating forms of hostilities waged against civilians is Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV). Emphasizing the grave consequences of CRSV, four out of eight UN Security Council Resolutions under the Women, Peace and Security agenda consider sexual violence as a major impediment to peace and security.

As such, CRSV has severe implications for peace operations deployed in conflict-ridden areas. Due to its long-term and relentless consequences, CRSV jeopardizes stabilization efforts by peace operations as well as sustainable conflict-resolution and effective post-conflict reconstruction. Norway sees it important to enhance the military capacity to address CRSV, and for this particular reason the Norwegian Defence University College, in close coordination with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and other partners, is developing a handbook on CRSV, aiming to enhance military capacity to prevent and respond to it by providing practical tools for peace operations. This handbook will be launched during spring 2018.

Madam Chairperson,

We need more female soldiers in operations at home and abroad, including in peacekeeping, but we will not get there unless we broaden the base of female candidates. For countries with military conscription, an obvious choice is to make it universal. In Norway this was introduced in 2015. Initially it was seen as controversial, but this is no longer the case. This year almost one in four of our 8000 new conscripts are women. We will have succeeded if these female conscripts become professional soldiers and officers. As of today 10,8 % of our military personnel are females.

To inspire these women to follow a military career path, role models are essential. Norway had the world's first female submarine commander in 1992, the first female UN force commander in 2014 and recently, this spring we got our first female chief of the Air Force. This sends an important message that women can hold any position in the Armed Forces, or in international operations, including as a military commander.

As with the rest of the gender agenda, recruiting more women is not only the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do. Because when we can select the most capable candidates, both men and women, we enhance operational effectiveness, situational awareness, force protection and mission success. In other words, we improve our armed forces.

Hence, from a military and defence policy perspective, the 1325-agenda is NOT primarily about gender equality. It is more specifically about capability and operational effectiveness.

Thank you.