



## EUROPEAN UNION

### **OSCE FSC on 27 March 2019 EU Statement on Women, Peace and Security: “Participation of Women in the Security Sector: From the Why to the How”**

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The European Union and its Member States warmly welcome the distinguished speakers to the Forum for Security Co-operation and thank them for their insightful presentations. We commend the Swiss FSC Chairmanship for dedicating this Security Dialogue to a key aspect of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda: the participation of women in the security sector, focusing on moving the debate from the “why” to the “how”.

Indeed, this is where the focus should be. On how we move from knowing, to truly believing, to acting.

And we can act. Firstly, through our national action plans. As reiterated in the new EU Strategic Approach to Women, Peace and Security adopted last December, the EU stands ready to support all implementation efforts, as well as to assist other countries which do not yet have a National Action Plan in place.

Secondly, by including women in decision making processes. Indeed, the most transformative aspects of implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda relates to the promotion of the full, equitable and meaningful participation of women at all levels of decision-making on all matters of peace and security. Progress towards a balanced representation of men and women at all levels, including at senior and decision-making levels, in national diplomatic services, in all ministries

including defense, justice and security, armed forces and other security sector agencies are important factors in taking forward the WPS agenda.

Thirdly, each Member State can commit to establishing a military position working solely on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 within the military planning cycle and execution of operations. This will enable the military component to better integrate the WPS agenda within military activity.

The EU and its Member States are committed to advancing the WPS agenda at national, regional and global levels. The EU is currently drafting its first-ever Action Plan on the implementation of the WPS agenda with the involvement of national experts and civil society.

We look forward to engaging with the international community on how we can further support the creation of National Action Plans in our Member States, and beyond. We believe that such interactions are the source of mutual learning that can help us all to move closer to realizing our commitments under UNSC resolution 1325. We are determined to continue to lead globally on these issues, including in the OSCE context.

We reiterate that the OSCE is well positioned to make a unique contribution to the WPS agenda. The FSC has a significant stake in this topic, and we encourage amplifying efforts for the meaningful inclusion of women in disarmament and arms control. In order to come to a better understanding and to share our best practices, we continue to support voluntary reporting on topics related to WPS within the annual information exchange on the Code of Conduct.

We reiterate our support for the adoption of an OSCE-wide Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. We are committed to work together to improve representation and the meaningful and equal participation of women. In this sense, an increased participation of gender experts as briefers in this Forum would be a significant step forward in the mainstreaming of the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

We look forward to hearing the views of other participating States on how we can continue to improve our work in this area.

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

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