



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

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

### **91<sup>st</sup> FSC-PC Joint Meeting** (10 July 2024)

Agenda Item 1, Security Dialogue:

“Women, Peace and Security: Women’s contribution to peace and security: lessons learned and challenges ahead”

Chairs,

Ukraine aligns itself with the EU Statement. Let me also make some remarks in my national capacity.

We are grateful to the Croatian FSC Chairpersonship and the Maltese OSCE Chairpersonship for convening this joint FSC-PC meeting dedicated to the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda. I also would like to extend our warm welcome to the distinguished speakers and thank them for their insightful presentations on the various aspects of this important issue, as well as for sharing their personal experiences in this field

As the concept note for today’s discussion highlights: “War, violent conflict, terrorism, and extremism have differential and devastating consequences on women and girls.” Ukraine, regrettably, knows this all too well from its own experience.

Every day, women and girls in Ukraine lose their lives because of Russian bullets, bombs and missiles. Credible reports from international humanitarian organisations indicate that Ukrainian girls and women are subjected to horrific cruelty by Russian troops, including gender-based violence. Numerous Ukrainian citizens, including women and girls, living under constant threat of air and missile strikes, are deprived of basic needs such as education and healthcare.

A case in point is Russia’s latest massive attack on Ukraine on 8 July, when 38 missiles were launched into Ukraine, 30 of which hit residential buildings, industrial plants, medical and social facilities. The missile strikes on Kyiv caused significant damage to Ukraine’s largest

children's hospital, Ohmatdyt, and also resulted in the death of at least seven civilians at the ISIDA medical centre, one of Ukraine's largest women's health and family planning centres.

Distinguished colleagues,

Against the backdrop of the ongoing war waged by the Russian Federation, protecting those in need is an absolute priority for the Government of Ukraine. At the same time, it is important not to mischaracterise women solely as a vulnerable group.

It is essential to recognise and advance the role of women as defenders, community leaders and agents of change. Women's contributions to peace and security reaffirm the essential role they play in the security and defence sector.

Since the start of Russian aggression against Ukraine in 2014, the number of Ukrainian women serving in the Armed Forces has more than doubled, with a notable increase following the full-scale invasion in February 2022. Today, with over 67,000 women in the Armed Forces of Ukraine, including almost 48,000 military personnel, women are active participants in the fight for freedom and independence of their motherland.

A new law on mobilisation entered in force in Ukraine on 18 May 2024. According to this law, women, as before, can only be mobilised voluntary. At the same time, women doctors are required to get enrolled in the military register.

Despite the challenges posed by the war, the Government of Ukraine continues to invest tirelessly in gender mainstreaming and ensuring equal rights and opportunities, as well as decent and respectful working conditions for all.

Our practical achievements in this area include the development of the Guidelines on Integrating Gender Approaches in Training Specialists for Ukraine's Security and Defence Sector, the PROTECT2 Project aimed at enhance the capacity of the gender advisory network within the defence sector, the launch of the Platform for Gender Mainstreaming and Inclusion in Recovery to facilitate gender mainstreaming in the recovery process.

In close coordination, the Government, Parliament, civil society representatives and Ukraine's international partners continue to work to ensure women's full, equal, and meaningful participation in the public and private sectors, political decision-making, peace processes, activism, and advocacy.

Chairs,

On a final note, allow me to touch upon the issue of the cooperation within the international organisations. Overcoming the obstacles to the full implementation of the WPS agenda requires close collaboration between states, various intergovernmental institutions, regional organisations, academia and civil activists who speak about the devastating reality of conflicts firsthand. Ukraine's national experience in implementing the WPS agenda clearly demonstrates that cooperation with international partners is important and beneficial for all engaged parties.

Our joint work within the OSCE is an illustrative example of how such collaboration helps to mainstream WPS issues. Ukraine supports the OSCE efforts to promote the full implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda.

We believe that joint efforts should continue to promote and support women's participation in the defence and security sectors at every level and stage.

Thank you.