



## **OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation**

### **Security Dialogue on UNSCR 1325**

#### **Statement by H.E. Mher Margaryan, Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations, Chair of the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women**

Mr. Chairperson,

I thank you for the invitation to contribute to the Security Dialogue of the Forum for Security Cooperation and address the delegations of the OSCE participating States on the trends and challenges in implementation of the UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and identifying measures to further advance the women, peace and security agenda.

Having the privilege to chair the Commission on the Status of Women for its 64<sup>th</sup> and 65<sup>th</sup> sessions, as Permanent Representative of Armenia to the UN, I am pleased to acknowledge the great degree of interest for issues related to empowerment of women, in particular, on their full, equal and meaningful participation in peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities.

The twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Resolution 1325 (2000) and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action last year created an important momentum for mainstreaming women, peace and security agenda.

The resolution 1325 has been instrumental in consolidating the efforts of the international community to promote the role of women in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and peace-making. It also set a normative framework for ensuring

protection of women and girls in conflict situations. The landmark anniversary of the resolution was an occasion also to scale up practical measures of countering all forms of violence against women and girls in conflicts and address their special protection needs.

The recent report of the United Nations Secretary-General on women, peace and security reveals certain progress in terms of growing number of member states adopting national action plans for the implementation of the resolution 1325. As at July 2020, 85 Member States, including Armenia had translated the women and peace and security agenda into national action plans.

The Action for Peacekeeping Initiative launched by the Secretary-General in 2018, provided further impetus for implementation of women, peace and security agenda. In the Declaration of Shared Commitments on UN Peacekeeping Operations the member states committed to ensuring equal and meaningful participation of women in all stages of peace processes and increasing the number of civilian and uniformed women in peacekeeping at all levels and in key positions.

Despite the significant progress in advancing participation of women in peace processes and engagement of women in security sector, they continue to be disproportionately affected by conflicts and complex humanitarian emergencies. The COVID-19 pandemic deepened pre-existing inequalities and exposed their vulnerabilities in all spheres of public life.

Mr. Chairperson,

Within the Commission on Status of Women the Political Declaration adopted on the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Forth Conference on Women last year at the 64<sup>th</sup> session, as well as the Agreed Conclusions adopted this March, specify the importance of strengthening the protection of women and girls in armed conflict and the full, equal

and meaningful participation of women at all stages of peace processes, recognizing the need for their leadership and enhanced representation.

The 65<sup>th</sup> session of the CSW, held under the priority theme “Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls” provided with an opportunity to come up with strong action-oriented policy recommendations, including in the sphere of meaningful participation of women in peace processes.

Despite the impact of the pandemic on the working modalities of the session, the commission brought together a wide range of stakeholders from governments of member states, civil society, women’s organizations, national human rights institutions, media and private sector.

In the consensually adopted Agreed Conclusions of the session the Commission recalled the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the women, peace and security agenda, and reaffirmed that the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in all stages of peace processes is one of the essential factors for the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security.

The Commission also recognized the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of armed conflicts and in peacebuilding and stressed the need to ensure that the perspectives of women and girls are taken into account in armed conflict and post-conflict situations and in humanitarian emergencies and that they effectively and meaningfully participate, on equal terms with men, in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies and activities related to conflict prevention, peace, mediation, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction,

Mr. Chairperson,

As a regional organization under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe undoubtedly plays an important role in advancing women, peace and security agenda in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian region.

The OSCE with its concept of comprehensive and indivisible security, entailing politico-military, economic and environmental and human dimensions is well-placed to advance full and effective participation of women across all stages of conflict cycle, mainstreaming gender equality in security sector, addressing protection needs of women and girls in conflicts, upholding and promoting human rights of all women and girls affected by conflicts and crises.

Cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE both at the level of Secretariats and field operations is essential for operationalizing the resolution 1325 and fostering dialogue with the respective member states in the framework of the implementation of National Actions Plans.

Mr. Chairperson,

In our national context, Armenia has been prioritizing the advancement of women, peace and security agenda in the framework of its national policies and programmes aimed at promoting gender equality and empowerment of women. The adoption of the National Action Plan on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 by Armenia in 2019 envisages coherent and coordinated policies for enhancing the role of women in the security sector governance and reform, in particular their participation in peacekeeping, as well as in peacebuilding activities.

Ensuring solid and meaningful involvement of women, particularly those residing in conflict areas, in conflict prevention, post conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation processes is vital for the sustainability of peace processes. An important partner for

governments in scaling up the participation of women in peace processes is the civil society. The non-governmental organizations, women's networks and grassroots initiatives are instrumental for women's engagement in peace and security related activities.

In conclusion, I would like to reemphasize the importance of further strengthening of the international partnerships aimed at enhancing active participation of women in political and public life as important prerequisites for promoting peace and security around the world.

I thank you.