



**EUROPEAN UNION**  
**OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation N°847**  
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**EU Statement on Gender Equality in the Military**

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The European Union and its Member States warmly welcome the speakers to the Forum for Security Co-operation, and thank them for their interesting and comprehensive presentations. Dialogues such as this are important in emphasizing that gender equality affects the whole society, including the armed forces in their international and national functions.

We commend the Romanian FSC Chair for devoting our security dialogue to this important topic today, while celebrating International Women's Day, which provides an opportunity to highlight the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women, and to accelerate action towards gender parity. The EU marks this important day by organising several events and activities, including a seminar held today by the EU Military Staff with participation of senior military representatives from and outside the EU to raise understanding on gender in military operations.

The promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women is a key priority for the European Union. A gender perspective, encompassing the equal participation of men and women, is both an essential goal and a means to help prevent and resolve conflicts and promote a culture of inclusive and sustainable peace. Implementing gender equality in the military is a work in progress and further efforts are still needed to improve the participation of women at all levels including in the decision-making in the armed forces. A comprehensive approach is necessary when working towards the achievement of gender equality. In this regard, broad cooperation with other government bodies as well as civil society is needed.

Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and related resolutions remains highly relevant for our Organisation. We recall in this context the UNSCR 2242 underlining the important role of UN entities and regional organisations to implement the relevant provisions of Security Council reso-

lutions on Women, Peace and Security. In this context, we continue to call for the adoption of an OSCE-Wide Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

We equally appreciate practical work on UNSCR 1325 implementation in the OSCE context. We value the CPC/FSC Support Section's attention to the role of women in the context of the Vienna Document 2011, including the statistical overview on the participation of women in verification activities as well as the side event organised in the margins of AIAM to share experience on gender mainstreaming in the armed forces. We furthermore appreciate the joint OSCE/UNODA Project on Education for Women on Disarmament and Non-proliferation. We also continue to support voluntary reporting on topics related to women, peace and security within the annual information exchange on the Code of Conduct. We also stress the importance of actively engaging with civil society, such as women's groups, which is essential both for the implementation, and monitoring, of UNSCR 1325. Therefore, we look forward to further engage with the OSCE and individual participating States in this important area of common interest.

The EU continues its efforts to integrate gender and UNSCR 1325 into its Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). All EU CSDP missions and operations are expected to fully integrate human rights and gender in the planning, benchmarking, conduct and reporting, as well as in post-mission learning. All missions and operations have dedicated staff, advisers or focal points, responsible for gender.

In its efforts to move from policy to practice on gender, peace and security, the EU has produced a Baseline Study on Integrating Human Rights and Gender into CSDP. The Baseline Study is a stock-taking exercise on achievements and challenges for the EU and its Member States in mainstreaming human rights and gender into CSDP missions and operations. It also provides a tool for a more systematic approach for integrating human rights, gender and related fields into CSDP. It also presents examples of good practice such as EUTM Mali which has expert advisers/trainers covering international humanitarian law, human rights and gender and who developed training for IHL, Human Rights and Gender of Malian Armed Forces soldiers prior to operational deployments. Furthermore, EUNAVFOR MED (Operation Sophia) which has a gender adviser and an expert in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights developed a training manual focussing specifically on treatment of migrants, stress-

ing a gender-sensitive approach and giving advice on cultural awareness and several gender dimensions and topics.

We would also like to draw attention of the Forum to the EU-supported gender work of SEESAC supporting advancement of gender equality of security sector reform, including the military, through regional cooperation. The aim of the project is to ensure better integration, retention and professional development for women in the armed forces as well as stronger participation of women in decision-making and gender sensitive change in the organisational culture of the MoDs.

Mr. Chairman, military and civilian crisis management are important areas where gender equality must be mainstreamed. We recognize that integrating gender issues into armed forces' international and domestic functions remains a challenge. We emphasize that crisis management operations and missions must operationalize gender in their activities and that all deployments including senior management, receive training on the integration of gender perspective and the prevention of, and response to, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) including Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA). We encourage all participating States to continue training and deploying women as civilian crisis management experts and as military experts as well as training men and women in UNSCR 1325 and how to integrate gender perspective into all phases and activities related to crisis management.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\*, SERBIA\* and ALBANIA\*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND and LIECHTENSTEIN, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA and ANDORRA align themselves with this statement.

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