

**HOW CAN WE ADVANCE FSC WORK AND STRENGTHEN COOPERATION?
ASSISTING IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNSCR 1325**

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I would also like to warmly welcome Dr. Andrew Long and Ms. Jackie Upton and thank them for their valuable contributions to our Security Dialogue. The UK Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative is indeed very timely in the framework of increasing global efforts in the implementation of women, peace and security commitments. In my presentation, I will try to discuss how we can strengthen our own cooperation within the FSC with a view to assisting the implementation of UNSCR 1325, which is also an indispensable part of these commitments.

Since the beginning of this year, we had several Security Dialogues at the FSC devoted to women, peace and security related topics, thanks to the FSC Chairmanships of Liechtenstein and Lithuania, which placed this issue among their priorities and kept it high on our agenda. It would be only fair to say that as a result of this dialogue that we have established, we managed to raise awareness among participating States on the implementation of already existing commitments stemming from 1325 and subsequent resolutions, namely UNSCR 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009) and 1960 (2010). It is encouraging to note that there is actually no divergence of views among participating States as to the importance of this topic. Our differences mainly relate to identifying possible ways of addressing this issue in the most appropriate way within the OSCE, and particularly at the FSC. I hope that today's Security Dialogue will contribute to our efforts in identifying the appropriate tools and methods in addressing these issues within the FSC more concretely.

The adoption of UNSCR 1325 is a historic recognition by the international community of the disproportionate effect the armed conflict has on women and children, in particular as

civilians, refugees or internally displaced persons. Therefore, the emphasis of the Resolution on preventing, addressing and reducing sexual violence is very strong but its scope is not just limited to these aspects. The resolution 1325 and follow-on resolutions on women, peace and security focus on two main lines of effort: firstly, what we can call in broad terms the protection of women in armed conflict; secondly, the participation of women in conflict prevention, management and resolution activities, especially in leadership and decision-making positions.

The element of protection during armed conflicts is particularly emphasized in these resolutions because of the vulnerability of women during conflict and the wide spread cases of sexual violence. However, it would not be doing justice to the objectives of these resolutions to diminish their roles to only conflict situations and to only protection aspects. One of the rationales behind Resolution 1325 is to increase the participation of women in the conflict cycle. In other words, as much as we would like to protect women during conflicts from instances of sexual violence, we would at the same time very much like to see them better represented before conflicts occur in the prevention phase, during the conflict management phase as well as in the post conflict rehabilitation phase. UNSCR 1325 calls for the involvement of women in all of these stages and the OSCE has undertaken commitments through its Ministerial Council decision 14/05 on “Women in Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation” and most recently through 3/11 on “Conflict Cycle” to incorporate women in all phases of the conflict cycle.

Admittedly, it is not new commitments that we need to adopt but rather the full implementation of already existing ones. There is a lot of work to be done before, during and after conflicts and the challenges related to the implementation of the broad range of commitments outlined in the UNSCR 1325 require our further engagement within the OSCE in the wider sense. While the primary responsibility for ensuring the implementation of 1325 rests with the participating States, the OSCE and the FSC in particular has an important role to play in ensuring full implementation of all UNSC Resolutions on women, peace and security.

As I have stated in some of our previous Security Dialogues, I remain convinced that we need to update our organization’s approach to the implementation of commitments on women, peace and security within its own structures in order to better complement other

international efforts. Gender mainstreaming the work of our field operations, involving more women in negotiation mechanisms, introducing gender analysis aspects in programmes and projects as well as addressing special vulnerabilities of women in crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation can be considered as some elements in this respect. This would no doubt be in line with our unique approach to security in three dimensions and at the same time serve to raise the profile of our organization in the international fora. Since I know that there is a certain sensitivity on the part of some delegations to avoid duplication of efforts, I would like to underline here that what we intend to do at the OSCE should in no way be seen as a contradiction or duplication of the UN efforts in this field. There is no challenge to the role of the UN as a norm-setting body, but the OSCE as the largest regional organization dealing with security has its added value in terms of implementation. Our vast network of field operations is one of our main strengths and women, peace and security issues are no exception when it comes to making better use of the tools at our disposal.

Another issue that I believe we have to devote particular attention to is developing a more consistent policy to facilitate implementation of gender and security-related commitments in participating States. There is a clear need to better define and structure the OSCE work on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and the gender related issues within the conflict cycle. In order to respond to this challenge, we can look into ways to systemize the facilitation of the development of National Action Plans or national implementation measures for the implementation of 1325 in participating States, exchange best practices, enhance participation of women in decision making, develop national rosters of women mediators and negotiators and so on.

The development of National Action Plans is a good method by which States can implement UNSCR 1325. Although, admittedly National Action Plans are not the only national implementation measures relating to women, peace and security, the use of these Plans is considered as a manifestation of a certain commitment to comprehensively implement this Resolution. In this sense, it would also be a welcome development to adopt an OSCE wide Action Plan on women, peace and security in order to assist participating States to implement 1325 in the context of the OSCE's wider policy objectives of enhancing security and stability in the OSCE region. I know that the Gender Section is working hard on this endeavour together with the co-sponsors of an OSCE draft decision on the topic, namely,

Austria, Finland, Turkey and Kazakhstan. I very much hope that participating States will be able to agree on this Plan in 2013, which will no doubt help our efforts within the FSC.

In the absence of a comprehensive OSCE-wide Action Plan, in order to achieve further progress within the FSC, I identified the following areas where we can strengthen our cooperation:

As you all know, one concrete example of the implementation of our women, peace and security related commitments has been the voluntary reporting on the status of women in the armed forces of participating States in response to the questionnaire of the 1994 OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. This is a landmark document in so many ways and I believe that including UNSCR 1325 issues into the Code of Conduct reporting represents a good measure to assess gender mainstreaming in the security forces and can assist the OSCE in better understanding the challenges in the implementation of the resolution in the security sector. One idea to explore in this respect is drafting of a summary report by the Secretariat on the voluntary information exchange on 1325 within the Code of Conduct. This can help all participating States in their future work as to providing more pertinent reporting and identifying areas where there is more work that needs to be done. Some initial ideas were voiced in this respect during the ODIHR event on women's access to combat forces held on 19 April 2013 and Gender Section has been studying this possibility. I am also ready to discuss this issue further with interested delegations with regard to the upcoming Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct to be held on 10 July 2013.

Another concrete effort that we can undertake is the voluntary establishment of points of contacts in our capitals and/or in our Permanent Missions to facilitate the work related to the implementation of women, peace and security resolutions. This would also be of great help to the Gender Section which is currently working on a project related to the national level strategies on the implementation of Resolution 1325 in order to gather relevant information on this issue through questionnaires.

In addition to these steps, we can further strengthen our cooperation with regard to education and training as a strategic tool for ensuring implementation of the resolutions on women, peace and security. I was very pleased to hear from our guest speakers today about

the broad range of practical actions taken by the UK and the deployment of UK expertise in different parts of the world. I believe that there is a lot of room for exploring synergies there with our field operations. In the same vein, we can further deepen our cooperation with our partners and other international organizations, which may have more experience in this field. This would not only help us to continue to raise public awareness of our policies on gender mainstreaming in our structures, operations and programmes but would also reinforce our message of commitment to implementing the principles of 1325 and follow-on resolutions.

On a different note, as we approach the second half of the year, we will soon be discussing the draft Ministerial Council decisions for Kiev. I continue to believe that it is important to keep and even strengthen our reference to the Resolution 1325, particularly in the draft decision on Issues Relevant to the FSC. Although there is ample time ahead of us to evaluate how we would like to proceed with our plans on possible draft decisions within the FSC, I believe that it is useful to keep a mental placeholder in our minds as to this reference. I certainly hope that our discussions throughout the year, including today's Security Dialogue will serve as the necessary basis upon which we can build on the language related to women, peace and security issues in the FSC decisions.

Last but not least, at a time when our organization has embarked upon a new exercise to reaffirm its relevance and to identify a strategic vision for its future in the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, we should not forget about gender issues. Helsinki+40 process provides the opportunity for all of us to take stock of our achievements as an organization and find out better ways to address existing challenges in all three dimensions. As a cross-dimensional issue, with broad implications ranging from security sector to economic empowerment and equal opportunities for all, gender issues deserve to be taken up within this process as we further concretize our work. Since the FSC is also requested to provide its contribution to the Helsinki+40 process, I am sure that we will not forget those commitments related to women, peace and security in our discussions.

In all of our endeavours, we should remember that achieving greater empowerment of women in conflict cycle and more effective protection of women in armed conflicts, particularly through prevention of sexual violence, is of benefit not only to women but to our societies as a whole. Our guest speakers gave us a very good overview on what we can do

more on these issues and I also believe that this is a crucial component of a comprehensive approach to security challenges of the 21st century.

Before I conclude, I would like to express my gratitude for the increasing understanding and appreciation of the importance of addressing women, peace and security issues within the FSC, as testified by a growing number of events and substantial discussions on the topic such as today. I look forward to your questions together with our guest speakers with the hope that we can have a lively debate.

Thank you.