



Statement of Ambassador Guðni Bragason, Permanent Representative of Iceland, on the UNSCR 1325 at the 943rd Meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation, Vienna, 11th March 2020.

Mr Chairman.

This year, 2020, we not only commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. It also marks the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Peking Declaration and Platform for Action.

The day before yesterday, the UN General Assembly approved a Political Declaration on the Peking Anniversary, calling for, i. a.:

“Strengthening the protection of women and girls in armed conflict and the full, equal and meaningful participation of women at all decision-making levels ... and recognizing their leadership therein and the need for their enhanced representation in peace-keeping:”

Our point of departure is that there will be no peace and security without the participation of women, in creating peace and security. Therefore, Iceland remains a firm supporter of UNSCR 1325 and the values it represents. Women must have a seat at the table and their voices must be heard.

The OSCE Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC) has played an important role in advocating increased participation of women in the security sector. In the past, it was not always accepted to include gender perspectives in security discussions. This has changed and this pace should not come to a halt. We believe that it is now widely accepted in the international security fora that gender issues will be a regular part of deliberations. The UNSCR 1325 should be constantly on the table as regards security matters.

Encouraging women to participate in security-related fields within our organization is possible through determined actions and programmes. But this is of course a much broader issue and a part of a wider problem, which is the lack

of possibilities for women to participate actively and fully in various fields of the society.

As regards the roles of women, it is clearly outlined in the Resolution itself what roles women can play in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction.

Needed is gender mainstreaming in all field missions and OSCE mandates, active gender considerations in interaction and consultations with local women's groups, in refugee situations, addressing sexual crimes and in repatriation, to name but few fields.

The national implementation of the UNSCR 1325 with regard to the pol-mil dimension could be improved through the National Action Plans.

In the present Icelandic NAP, for the years 2018–2022, we have provisions for gender considerations in our participation in peace-keeping operations, in various places such as Afghanistan. It gave me great pleasure 10 years ago as Director for the Peace-keeping participation of the Iceland Crisis Response Unit (ICRU) to help introducing gender considerations, both with regard to personnel and policies.

There are also provisions which stipulate that “cooperation with the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations (NCGM) will be strengthened”.

Allow me to use this opportunity to encourage those participating States who have yet to adopt their first NAP, to do so at their earliest convenience.

Finally,

The up-coming OSCE-wide Gender Equality Review Conference in June 2020 is an opportunity to assess what has been achieved regarding UNSC resolution 1325 and where we could do better in mainstreaming it into the work of the OSCE.

Effective implementation of the UN Security Council resolution nr. 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security would strengthen the comprehensive security role of the OSCE.

Thank you.