



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Office of the Secretary General / Gender Section
Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security**

Statement delivered by Amarsanaa Darisurem, Senior Adviser on Gender Issues
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Mr. President, distinguished members of the Council,

It is a great honour for me to be here and represent the Secretary General of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

I commend the focus of this year's debate on moving the Women and Peace and Security agenda to a systematic implementation leading to tangible results.

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe is the largest regional security organization under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter. With our comprehensive approach to security, the women, peace and security agenda is a common thread throughout all our work, not only in the politico-military field, but also in economic and environmental issues and the promotion of human rights and democratic institutions.

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe is active in all phases of conflict, from prevention, to conflict resolution, post-conflict rehabilitation and peacebuilding. The inclusion of a gender perspective is essential in all these phases. The OSCE approach aligns closely to the goals set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We support our participating States to fulfil their gender equality commitments, to enhance comprehensive security.

We recognize that, unfortunately, formal political processes provide little access and space for women. There is a clear need to increase the meaningful inclusion of women in all phases of the conflict cycle, so we give more recognition to the essential contribution of women, in particular at the grassroots level. For example, the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine in its monitoring work makes sure that experiences of women and men from the conflict-affected populations are heard and are making their way into the daily public reports. We need to further invest in improving the gender balance among our monitors, in order to ensure mixed patrols that reach out more effectively to the local population.

Allow me to share with you some examples of progress reached in the last year by the OSCE:

1. 31 countries in the OSCE region have adopted National Action Plans on UN Security Council Resolution 1325, an increase in three since last year. OSCE executive structures continue to build capacity of participating States to develop and implement National Action Plans, by exchanging experiences and by providing targeted support at national level. Just last week, the OSCE Secretariat conducted the Second National Action Plan Academy for five countries, so several more are in the pipeline. We welcome the development and implementation of localized action plans at sub-national level in Ukraine and will be supporting this initiative, which presents a unique opportunity and potential good practice.
2. The OSCE field operations, Institutions and Secretariat build women's leadership at national and local levels, through mentoring, supporting their networks and capacity development. For example, the Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe offers specialized trainings for women border guards.
3. We continue to work on gender-inclusive mediation processes. This year in April, we organized a High-Level Mediation Retreat with Heads of Missions and Special Representatives. Building on this meeting the OSCE is preparing an analysis of OSCE-led mediation processes and a practical guidance.
4. The OSCE's politico-military bodies, like the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Security Committee increasingly incorporate a gender perspective in their agendas and the High-level Planning Group has mainstreamed gender in their work plans.
5. OSCE has been at the forefront to ensure a gender perspective is included in efforts to prevent violent extremism and radicalization that may lead to terrorism. The new Leaders against Intolerance and Violent Extremism project specifically includes women's community leaders and young women and men.
6. Strong leadership is essential to achieve progress. We have therefore introduced the Executive Gender Coaching programme for the Secretary General and Secretariat Directors, to provide them with the necessary skills and tools to mainstream gender into their work.

Mr. President,

We recognize that in our Organization, more efforts are needed to implement a sustained, systematic approach to improve women's participation in peace processes, to prevent and effectively respond to conflicts.

The OSCE will continue building stronger synergies and linkages and participate in key initiatives like the Women, Peace and Security National Focal Point Network and the Regional Acceleration of Resolution 1325. We look forward to develop even closer partnerships with the United Nations and other organizations.

Thank you.