



Highlights from OSCE PA event on «Enhancing the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 across the OSCE Region: Parliamentarians’ Contribution to Women, Peace and Security»¹

Wednesday, 8 September 2021, 14:30 – 17:00 CEST, online

General points:

- Observed slow progress² in women’s participation in all aspects of the conflict cycle since the adoption of the UNSCR 1325 (2000);
- Highlighted women’s active and meaningful participation in peace processes as a crucial factor for ensuring stable and long-lasting peace, increasing the sustainability of post-conflict peace settlement;
- Highlighted the importance of continuous and effective development, financing, implementation, update, and scrutiny of National Actions Plans (NAPs) on WPS by States and their national legislatures, as an important tool for effectively attaining WPS and UN-related Sustainable Development goals;
- Pointed out the importance for incentivizing and actively engaging men as integral partners for implementing the extensive WPS agenda, especially in shaping an inclusive attitude change in their spheres of work/engagement/influence.
- Emphasized the need for collection of quality, comparable and sex-disaggregated data, in particular in the WPS scope of work, that would allow for gender-sensitive analysis and

¹ The Highlights from the OSCE PA Call for Action - Helsinki +50 Meetings are not intended to be official conclusions, nor an exhaustive list of all issues or suggestions raised during the debate, but rather a compilation of points recorded for possible future reference. As this compilation is not exhaustive, any comments or suggested additions are welcome.

² As highlighted by the OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues, Hon. Hedy Fry, the underrepresentation of women across the conflict cycle is significant. According to her observations, women accounted for 6% of mediators, 13% of negotiators and 6% of signatories in major peace-making processes between 1992 and 2019. The Proportion of women in security, protection and police roles increased by a marginal 3% between 2015 and 2021, currently accounting for 7,2% in total, while more than 4 out of 5 ambassadors involved in peacebuilding and in negotiations are male.

database formation which later could be used for gender-sensitive policy-making;

- Reaffirmed the role of Parliaments and parliamentarians in streamlining the WPS agenda in policymaking through regular parliamentary work and advocacy engagement;
- Underlined the importance of addressing all forms of social discrimination and barriers that limit the potential of women and men to meaningfully engage in all stages of the conflict cycle.

General suggestions:

- To embrace a more positive and engaging use of language in reference to the gender-related challenges faced by women, allowing a more enabling environment of empowerment.
- To support efforts ensuring inclusive and positive working environments across sectors involved in conflict prevention and resolution, free from discrimination, harassment and abuse, while maintaining preventive and punitive mechanisms in regard to such behaviors;
- To encourage and support continuous training opportunities on the WPS agenda for staff members engaged across sectors in conflict prevention and resolution, peace negotiations, peace building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and post conflict reconciliation;

Suggestions for the PA:

- To promote interparliamentary dialogue on WPS in the OSCE region, and support the meaningful and targeted exchange of information focusing on ways parliamentarians can pass better and more inclusive legislation on WPS;
- To maintain its close engagement with OSCE institutions and executive structures in expanding the OSCE toolbox on WPS, while enhancing the streamlining of the WPS agenda in its current and future activities;
- To capitalize on the extensive acquis of the OSCE and of its Parliamentary Assembly, and to support the communication of its resources in an engaging and user-friendly way;
- To put effort in forging an informative and proactive platform for regular parliamentary exchanges on the implementation of NAPs across OSCE region;
- To lead by example together with OSCE institutions and executive structures, effectively implementing its gender-related commitments in the work of their respective Secretariats;

Suggestions for Parliamentarians:

- To take action in ensuring a substantial increase of the number of women parliamentarians seating and chairing foreign affairs, development and budgetary parliamentary committees, while ensuring the cross-party mobilization of MPs in regard to the development, financing, implementation and monitoring of NAPs on WPS;
- To generate political interest and exercise oversight, including through the establishment of topical parliamentary caucuses/working groups while ensuring that male parliamentarians are also actively engaged in advocating and mainstreaming the WPS agenda in parliamentary work;
- To strongly advocate for the harmonization of national policies with OSCE and international commitments and systematically engage in localizing the WPS agenda in their constituencies;
- To bring public attention to the topic, while ensuring direct and meaningful cooperation with the civil society, supporting the development of civil society platforms,
- To ensure allocation of adequate resources to the effective implementation of NAPs and policies related to the WPS agenda;
- To make space for women across all sectors, communities and societies to mentor and inspire while being involved in the development and implementation of NAPs;
- To recognize the risks and threats faced by women involved in peace processes, including in gender-based violence, while bringing visibility and developing rigorous legal frameworks for their safe and active participation.