



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT

by

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**Open debate of the Security Council
on**

**Women and Peace and Security: Women's participation in international peace
and security: From theory to practice**

**25 October 2023
New York**

-Check against delivery-

Mr. President,

My delegation fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and allow me to add some additional remarks in my national capacity.

If we want peaceful and prosperous societies for all, we cannot afford to ignore half of the population. Therefore, it is crucial to ensure women's safety and their right to act. We must also be all on the same page about what is our aim here. Because it has never been only about women being protected as victims but, equally importantly, it has always been, and it always will be about women being empowered as decision-makers. Marginalizing women does not keep them safe. Empowering women keeps them safe. Almost 25 years since the 1325 resolution was adopted, the progress has not been sufficient, the road to safety and equality for women has been slow and filled with too many detours and returns. We have seen some inspiring breakthroughs, that we applaud, but way too many backslides we regret.

Mr. President,

Slovakia faces challenges of its own but spares no effort in implementing WPS agenda, when it comes to empowering women at home and helping women abroad. The Slovak Government implements its first WPS National Action Plan for the period 2021-2025. We feel encouraged by the recent increase in share of women in the military which reached 22 percent among new conscripts. Representation of women serving in armed forces is now about 15 percent. We believe this trend will continue and will translate also into increased number of women actively serving in the UN PKOs. Speaking of PKOs and UNFICYP, where Slovakia has its own largest presence, we can also proudly announce that for the first time we have a Slovak female in the position of commander of the contingent, making her the second woman to hold such a position in the entire history of UNFICYP. In this regard, I seize this opportunity to inform you that yesterday, the President of Slovakia Ms Zuzana Čaputová appointed colonel Beata Hanusniakova brigadier general, thus being the first-ever female holder of the rank of general in Slovakia.

Slovakia supports women also abroad as feminist perspective is now inseparable part of all our endeavors in the development assistance projects where Slovakia places women and girls at the center. Our aim is clear and simple: societies where women's safety and rights are fully ensured are simply more peaceful and prosperous. It is a win-win for all. Slovakia shall spare no effort to ensure that this goal becomes the reality.

Mr. President,

It is a shame that women continue to be disproportionately impacted by conflict situations despite their substantive contribution to conflict prevention and resolution. We strongly condemn the continued use of the sexual violence against women and girls as a war tactic, including by the Russian Federation during its aggression against Ukraine. We welcome all effective action that have been adopted to combat sexual and gender-based violence. We strongly support women human rights defenders who are in the frontlines of the fight for women's rights in conflict-affected countries.

I thank you for your attention.