

Position paper

Committee: Security Council

Delegation: Slovenia

Topic 1: Marking the 25th Anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000)

As the twenty-fifth anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, adopted in 2000, is approaching, we shall use this opportunity to remember its importance. It is a pivotal turning point in global efforts to recognize the critical role of women in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and post-conflict reconstruction. It reminds us and acknowledges the disproportionate impact of armed conflicts on women and emphasizes their participation in peace processes. The Republic of Slovenia not only as a committed member of the United Nations but also as a member of Security Council is proud to be supporting this resolution and we are proud of its proceeding in advancing the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda.

When it comes to the Slovenia's stance of this topic, we strongly support the continues fight for women's equality and rights. Slovenia adopted its first National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security, in 2010 covering years 2010 to 2015, which was followed by better, upgraded version of NAP covering years 2018 to 2020¹. These action plans are important steps toward ensuring women's participation in peace processes, strengthening the protection of women and girls during and after conflict, and addressing gender-based violence (GBV) as a weapon of war. Slovenia's NAP's highlights important measures for capacity building for peacekeepers, gender-sensitive training for military and police forces, and prosecution mechanisms for sexual violence in conflict. Furthermore, Zakon o varstvu pred diskriminacijo (ZVarD) or Protection Against Discrimination Act², adopted in 2016, orders the elimination of discrimination in all sectors of society. This law is fundamental for implementation of UNSCR 1325's commitment to ensuring women's active participation in peace and security decision-making.

With this the Republic of Slovenia calls all member states to strengthen National Action Plans for UNSCR 1325, as it is important that we continue to build and improve women's training as peace negotiators and ensuring their participation in such cases. Slovenia also

¹ National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights, URL: <https://globalnaps.org/country/slovenia/>

²2023, URL: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/european-social-charter/slovenia>

recommends increased international cooperation in the fight against sexual violence in combat and increased support for victims.

Topic 2: Addressing the Disproportionate Effect of Armed Conflicts on Children

Turning to the second topic, Slovenia recognizes the overwhelming and disproportionate impact that armed conflicts have on children. It is non-negotiable that children are often the most vulnerable during conflicts, either if it was recruitment as child soldiers, exposure to violence or psychological trauma, children suffer in ways that can affect their entire lives. It is extremely important that we react as soon as possible with strict measures. Slovenia is committed to protecting the rights of children in conflict situations in alignment with international standards, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Children (CRC) and related protocols.

Slovenia, as a member of the United Nations, the European Union and the UNICEF Executive Board, firmly believes in the need for international cooperation to protect children in armed conflicts. Child Protection Act provides protections for children from all forms of violence, including emergency situations such as conflict and displacement. Additionally, Slovenia's Citizenship Law ensures that children born in Slovenia, even to stateless parents, can obtain Slovenian citizenship, protecting refugee and displaced children. Slovenia provides significant humanitarian aid to children in conflict zones through various UN international non-governmental organizations such as UNICEF, focusing on educational programs, health and psychosocial support. Moreover, in March 2021, Slovenia adopted a "Barnahus Law"³. With this law came the "Children's House"⁴ model which helped to minimize further trauma by bringing together investigative, medical, psychological, and social services under one roof. Over and above that, the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia provides for special protection of children⁵. For example, in Article 56, children are guaranteed granted with special protection and care obliged by law.

Slovenia urges all countries, particularly those experiencing conflict, to strengthen legal frameworks for protecting children. We also advocates for expanded funding for

³Council of Europe, URL: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/children/-/barnahus-law-in-slovenia-adopted-unanimously>

⁴ Barnahus Network, 2019, URL: <https://barnahus.eu/2019/01/20/slovenia-adopts-a-declaration-on-the-creation-of-a-childrens-house-for-child-victims-of-sexual-abuse/>

⁵ Council of Europe, 2000, URL: [https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/?pdf=CDL\(2000\)059-e](https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/?pdf=CDL(2000)059-e)

education in conflict zones, to provide children with continuous access to learning, even in emergencies. Finally, Slovenia calls for increased international investment in mental health services and recovery programs for children traumatized by conflict, ensuring they receive both immediate and long-term support.