CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY!

**Statement by Ambassador Barbara Žvokelj, Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the International Organizations in Vienna, at the 80th Joint meeting of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation and Permanent Council on UNSCR 1325, Women, Peace and Security
Vienna, 10 March 2021**

*Madame Co-Chairpersons, dear delegates*,

At the outset, let me join others in commending the panellists for their interesting presentations and their contribution to our today’s discussion. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Swedish OSCE and United States' FSC Chairpersonships for devoting this joint FSC/PC to the implementation of the UNSC resolution 1325.

Slovenia's views on the topic have been expressed three times today, through EU, through joint statement of Women Ambassadors, MenEngage, and Women in the First dimension, and now in my national capacity. One common point – We all have to do more!

The WPS agenda cuts across the FSC’s work. As such, the Forum has a key role to play in delivering full implementation of the UNSCR 1325 and its subsequent resolutions in the OSCE Region. This year we look at the past twenty years since adopting this important tool and we must admit that despite the increasing prevalence of gender strategies within the peace and security architecture, women remain hugely under-represented and their participation in peace processes continues to be a significant challenge. The representation of women in peace processes does not reach 10 per cent on average.

The issue of WPS remains on the top of the national agenda in Slovenia. In this vein, let me mention just some of our latest activities:

* The first annual report of our second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security is currently in the process of preparation and will be adopted in 2021.
* In the framework of the 20th anniversary of the Resolution, a National Social Media Campaign on WPS was running from 8th March till the end of November 2020.
* Besides the outreach, we place great importance to education and training. As I informed last October the first training of the newly established "Peacekeeping Operations Training Centre" in Slovenia was on the importance of gender mainstreaming in the work of the peacekeeping operations and missions. The Slovenian personnel, deployed to the international peacekeeping and civilian missions, will be thus well equipped to comprehensively perform their duties, including by applying a gender lens to their everyday work.
* Furthermore, bi-annual consultations and expert event on Women, Peace and Security is planned in cooperation with Norway for the second half of 2021, during the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the EU.
* Currently, women represent 16,7 per cent of Slovenian Armed Forces, out of this in international operations and missions 10 per cent. One of those in SMM. Women have access to all functions in SAF. Until recently, we had a female Chief of General Staff. We had a female commander of our second contingent of enhanced Forward Presence in Latvia. Since the first deployment of SAF, Slovenia continued to ensure the establishment of mixed gender engagement capabilities through deployment to the IOM and to maritime operations, especially when contact with the local population is necessary.

But much more remains to be done.

*Madame Co-Chairpersons*,

Let me again reiterate that Slovenia remains committed to the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 and with it to the meaningful participation of women in peace processes. Only this way we can achieve a more sustainable and stable peace. And as I always say: We cannot win with only half the team!

*Thank you.*