

**OSCE Forum for Security Cooperation
1060th session**

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**Statement by the FSC Chair's Co-ordinator on matters relating to
United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325**

As delivered by Spencer Fields

Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,

It is an honor for me to address this plenary meeting of the Forum for Security Cooperation for the first time in my capacity as the FSC Chair's Co-ordinator for matters related to UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325.

For some, it may appear unusual for a man to be appointed to be the Chair's Co-ordinator for a topic commonly referred to as the Women, Peace, and Security agenda. Nevertheless, this changing of the guard serves as a reminder that gender equality is everyone's responsibility and benefits us all. Research has proven that increasing the number of women in decision-making roles is directly linked with increased peace, security, and stability. However, achieving success in this area requires collective resolve and shared responsibility.

To paraphrase my predecessor, Ms. Rebecca Dovergne, the Women Peace and Security Agenda is about including more people and hearing all voices. It is about taking into account all aspects of a conflict and the whole spectrum of perspectives that we have in our societies in order to realize more effective, more efficient, and more sustainable outcomes.

I applaud Iceland's initiative to hold a Barbershop Conference here at the Hofburg to promote an honest conversation about gender equality and underline how and why we all need to take responsibility for it.

As Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine enters its 20th month, the importance of WPS to the future peace and security of the OSCE region has only become more apparent and more important.

In closing, I would like to thank you, Madam Chair, for the honor of being appointed as your Co-ordinator on matters relating to UNSCR 1325, and my predecessor, Ms. Dovergne, Dear Rebecca, who unfortunately cannot attend today, for her hard work, dedication, and initiatives, which have only set me up for success in this role.

I sincerely look forward to working with you all to advance the Women, Peace, and Security agenda in the FSC, in the broader OSCE, and in each of our respective participating states.

Thank you, Madam Chair.