

“Gender equality 20 years after the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325. The impact on the security and defence sector”

Dear Distinguished listeners... (Any Appropriate Greetings)

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world.

The Security Council adopted resolution 1325 on women and peace and security on 31 October 2000. The resolution reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction and stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.

There has been definitely progress over the last decades: There has been increasing work done to integrate gender generally and UNSCR 1325 specifically into the guidelines and policies of the armed forces. Additional work has been done to integrate gender and UNSCR 1325 into the guidelines and work of UN peacekeeping missions. Nevertheless, challenges remain, including effectively addressing the different security needs of male and female citizens, preventing sexual exploitation and abuse by members of the armed forces, and creating positive conditions of service for all members of the armed forces.

The need for proper, professional training in every country is crucial in order for the UN resolution to be effective. A strategic plan, that would measure gender equality and therefore encourage leadership upon its findings for both civilian and military employees, should be adopted. In addition, applicable, direct and fruitful training programs, integrated in the workplace and focused on the special features of the gender equality should be encouraged.

By avoiding marginalization and by minimizing discriminations, we could all create a better workplace with better conditions for everyone. I would like to end my short presentation, leaving you with some food for thought, borrowing, Socrates famous quote, that *“There is only one good, knowledge, and one evil, ignorance.”* Knowledge creates awareness and awareness leads to deeper understanding of the problems faced by humanity in all aspects.

Thank you all for being such great listeners!!

Anastasia NAKOU