

CZECH



REPUBLIC

Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations

**Statement
by**

H.E. Marie Chatardová

at the

**Security Council Open Debate
on
Women, Peace and Security**

**“Moving from commitments to accomplishments in preparation for the
commemoration of the 20th anniversary of United Nations Security Council
Resolution 1325”**

New York

29 October 2019

(check against delivery)

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen

We align ourselves with the statements of the EU and the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security.

Let me start by commending South Africa for choosing the theme of the full and effective implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. Taking the step from general proclamations to practical everyday implementation of the WPS Agenda abroad as well as in our own countries is crucial in achieving a real-life change.

The Czech Republic is currently working on the second National Action Plan for the years 2021-2025. In the process, we are building on accomplishments of the first NAP. For example, in 2018 37 % of our military personnel deployed in UN peacekeeping missions were women. On the other hand, we also keep in mind the lessons learned from implementation of the first NAP. That is why we pledged to include specific targets and indicators into the new impact-driven NAP to strengthen accountability and monitoring of progress. The accomplishment of the WPS Agenda remains one of my country's priorities.

Furthermore, we would like to also sincerely thank today's briefers for sharing their insights and the Secretary-General for his latest report on WPS. Both serve as a timely reminder that with the 20th anniversary of the UNSCR 1325 fast approaching, serious gaps remain in its implementation. The report includes two particularly worrying findings:

Firstly, we share the concern about the record high levels of political violence targeting women with killings and assaults, sexual violence, harassments,

abductions and forced disappearances. Physical security of women politicians, civic leaders and human right defenders is crucial for their full and meaningful participation in political processes and thus also for any progress of the WPS agenda as a whole.

Secondly, the report concludes that out of nearly 132 million people in need of humanitarian aid and protection, estimated 35 million women and girls require life-saving sexual and reproductive health services and interventions to prevent

gender-based violence and to respond to the needs of survivors. Sexual and reproductive health and rights are at the core of the WPS protection dimension and thus have to be translated into concrete actions on the ground.

To conclude, we would like to once again urge all the states, which have not yet done so, to join us and more than 80 other Member States in adopting and acting upon their National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. The time to act is now.

I thank you.