



Statement of Ambassador Kristín A. Árnadóttir, Permanent Representative of Iceland, at the 1321st Permanent Council Meeting, Vienna, 24 June 2021.

Thank you Madam Chair.

While my delegation aligns itself with the EU statement, I would like to add a few remarks in my national capacity.

Last year marked the 20th anniversary of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. This provided an occasion for participating States and the OSCE to place a special emphasis on the thematic.

Although the anniversary year has passed, the issue on Women, Peace and Security remains acutely relevant. If anything, Covid-19 has underscored the basic premise of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda – that women are affected disproportionately and uniquely by conflict and offer a unique contribution to reconciliation and conflict prevention. In this regard it is relevant to reiterate the importance and inherent right of women participating in peace work and reconstruction efforts.

It is particularly welcoming to see the effort of the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine to gender mainstreaming and implementing existing strategies for the promotion of gender equality in Ukraine. Gender disaggregated documentation and reporting is vital to advancing gender mainstreaming. I congratulate the Project Co-ordinator on the steps taken to ensure this and encourage him to continue this path.

Ambassador Villadsen, you and your office have done commendable work in difficult circumstances. While I assure you of my delegation's fullest support, I wish you all success for the year ahead.

Thank you Madam Chair.