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ROUMANIE
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STATEMENT

by H.E. dr. Ion Jinga
Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations

on Security Council agenda item
“Women, Peace and Security”

New York, 13 October 2015

Mr. President,

I would like to thank you for organizing this high level open debate of the Security Council, celebrating 15 years since the adoption of the landmark resolution 1325. I would also like to commend the Secretary General for his report and the members of the High Level Advisory Group for their comprehensive Global Study on "Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice and Securing the Peace". Romania was among the countries that contributed to this Global Study.

Romania aligns itself with the statement delivered by the observer of the European Union. I would like now to present a few remarks from the national perspective:

Security Council resolution 1325 put a most needed emphasis on the importance of women in peace processes. We heard today about the progress made in 15 years, about the remaining challenges and the priorities for action.

Romania believes that all actors – Member States, regional organizations, civil society and the media - should continue to work on implementing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. Women's active participation in peace processes has proved to be absolutely relevant for making conflict resolution and peacebuilding more effective.

The first female officer in the Romanian Armed forces was second lieutenant Ecaterina Teodoroiu, who died heroically in the WW I. One of the first women pilot in the world was Romanian Smaranda Brasescu. During WW II, she was a reconnaissance pilot in the famous White Squadron. Women in military uniform as a profession began to appear in Romania in 1973.

The Romanian Ministry of Defense has adopted an Action Plan aimed at implementing the seven resolutions in the field of women, peace and security. Based on our Constitutional provisions, it promotes a fair and balanced access of men and women, military or civilian personnel, to both senior-level and executive positions. As a result, we have women who reached the rank of general and, starting with 2009, there is an increased number of military female staff participating in international missions. Furthermore, women from the Ministry of Internal Affairs were deployed in UN, OSCE and EU peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions.

It is my privilege to acknowledge, here today, the contribution to peace and stabilization support in Haiti of a Romanian officer, chief superintendent Raluca Domuța, currently the commander of the South Region in MINUSTAH. She was awarded the International Female Police Peacekeeper for 2015. Throughout her mission in Haiti, she used her national expertise for combatting trafficking in human beings and organized crime. Ms. Domuța is an excellent example of the added value of gender component in the UN peacekeeping and special political missions.

Your Excellencies,

Gender equality, tolerance, non-discrimination, interdiction of sexual harassment and of gender-based violence, are reflected in all military educational programs in Romania.

Romania has deployed mix-gender teams, especially within the civil and military cooperation units which have been mainly responsible for the population engagement in Afghanistan. The Female Engagement Teams

were assigned to engage Afghan women and girls in order to empower them into their own societies, for instance in the Zabul Province.

The Romanian military staff acted through a multitude of projects and programs to support disadvantaged women and vulnerable groups within the area of operation. These activities were performed in full cooperation with the host country representatives and the local population, with regional organizations and civil society.

Today, military operations are conducted in a complex security environment which requires complementary skills and expertise of both women and men, as war and conflict impact distinctively women and men. However, at peace or at war, perspectives upon women's issues cannot be changed without men's proactive participation.

The UN Women campaign **HeForShe** encourages men to actively support women and girls. The President of Romania, Klaus Iohannis, personally joined this movement and his concrete commitments show how men in power can empower women.

Mr. President,

Romania has co-sponsored the Resolution on Women, Peace and Security, which has been adopted by consensus this morning, thus joining the call for more determined action by all stakeholders in order to move forward the WPS Agenda.

I thank you for your kind attention.