



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF EXTERNAL POLICY

UNGA Resolution 68/33 on «Women, Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Arms Control»

Portugal recognizes women and men's participation, in an equal, effective and total basis, in the promotion of the disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control is essential in order to promote the international peace and security.

Portugal adhered to international instruments and protocols on this issue, and also created internal legislation that aims at the promotion of women's participation in the above mentioned themes. In May 2011, Portugal ratified the Protocol Against the Illicit Traffic and Manufacture of Weapons, its Parts, Components and Ammunitions, complementary to the United Nations Convention Against the International Organized Crime. Although its internal legislation includes many of the arrangements included in that Protocol, this ratification reinforces Portugal's position, in the context of the UN, in what concerns the combat to the traffic, stockpiling and proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW).

Portugal also supported the conclusions from the United Nations Review Conference concerning the application of the Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Traffic of SALW, in 2012, as well as the criterion related to gender, consecrated in the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and the gender based violence (namely the domestic violence) which is intrinsically linked to the traffic of that type of arms.

Portugal has been promoting - through the political and strategic guidelines as well as action plans related to them - the equality of opportunities between woman and man in the decision making processes and recognizes the valorous contribution of women in the areas of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, namely through their representation in the Armed Forces which has been growing in the last years. Data reported to 2013 indicates that the feminine representation in the Armed Forces was of 10,7% in the Army, 8,6% in the Navy and 14,3% in the Air Force. In what concerns the internal

security forces, the number of women in the National guard (*Guarda Nacional Republicana*) was 5,5% and it was of 7,6% in the Police (*Polícia de Segurança Pública*).

Regarding the domestic and gender-based violence, we must highlight that Portugal adopted the V National Plan on Prevention and Combat to the Domestic and Gender-based Violence, 2014-2017, which is integrated in the Program of the XIX Constitutional Government. Portugal has been underlining the need of coordination among the entities involved in this process, either in the victim's protection and training of professionals working in these areas or in the research and punishment of the crimes.

The V National Plan on Prevention and Combat to the domestic and Gender-based Violence is in the frame of the commitments assumed by Portugal in many international institutions, namely the United Nations Organization, the European Council, the European Union and the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries. We also highlight the Convention of the Council of Europe on the Prevention and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention). Portugal was the first country to ratify this convention on February, 5th, 2013.

It was particularly important, from the point of view of the above mentioned National Plan, the national transposition of the CSNU Resolution 1325, which is comprehensive, and includes the humanitarian assistance in armed conflicts, the internal promotion of coherence and articulation among the internal policies in the area of disarmament, arms control and the combat to the use of light weapons, public security and the combat to the gender-based violence, aiming at the defense of Human Rights, and especially, in this context, the Women's rights.