

**NATIONAL REPORT ON THE SITUATION
OF SERVICE WOMEN
IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

Dear Chairperson, Ladies and gentlemen.

I present my compliments to the Organization of Women in NATO Armed Forces.

As the representative of the Republic of Armenia I have the honour to participate for the second time and this kind of meetings we consider to be very prospective.

My name is Eysin Kocharyan. I am Captain and I serve in the Department of Foreign Relations and Military Cooperation of the Ministry of Defence.

First of all I would like to point out that Armenian Armed Forces are about 14 years old and women in military service are something new for us. We surely can state that women occupy mainly positions in administrative, financial, medical, logistics, educational fields and personnel affairs which is due to the existence of specialized training institutions and programs for the mentioned professions. So in order to further integrate them in responsible combat posts it's very necessary to have personnel who have been educated in Military high Schools, War Colleges, Military Academies and had professional skills of Military Service. In our country we have not any military institutions provided expressly for women except the Military Medical Institute. Moreover, there are not special units designed for women training. And it is impossible to find a woman with Military background. As a result of this they can not serve in operational units of combat divisions, occupy combat responsible posts, or participate in operations in Kosovo or Iraq as men do. /taking into consideration the fact that eighty percent of the personnel are in combat duty at our State Borders/

In addition I would like to mention that there is no special point in Military legislation by which women are prohibited to attend the above mentioned Military Institutions. Due to the fact that Armenia was a post Soviet State, therefore we have

Soviet heritage and thus we need to transform it in course of time. However we should also take into account the overall national mentality, which obviously explains the matter in certain terms.

According to the Constitution of Armenia Military Service is compulsory only for the citizens of Armenia, and the recruitment of men from 18 to 27 is organized twice a year, in autumn and spring. The recruitment of women is based on voluntary principles. There are five hundred officers and one thousand and one hundred warrant officers enlisted in the Armenian Armed Forces. They are promoted to different ranks from Private till Colonel, we have no General,

Thank you for your attention, for informing me about the kind invitation to participate in such a prospective conference. I am sure that in future certain changes will take in this regard, as we, women have the same Personal capabilities and Professional development possibilities in all spheres as our male counterparts.