

**OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Notes for Third Committee Rapporteur Mr. Hadjiyianni**

Working Session 14, 28 September 2016

Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in all spheres in life

Thank you Chairperson,

We have just last year celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, before this we had the tenth anniversary of the OSCE Gender Action Plan and now the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Moscow Document. Celebrations come one after the other but what has really changed? Have we really contributed to greater gender equality in the OSCE area?

An old proverb says that “A man may work from sun to sun, but woman’s work is never done.” And many recent studies¹ back up that age-old observation. In the Parliamentary Assembly (PA) we have tried to focus our attention on particularly vulnerable groups of women with a high degree of potential for discrimination in their access to economic opportunities. Our point of departure was to recognize that equal opportunities for women and men and the full and equal enjoyment of their human rights by women are essential to peace, sustainable democracy, economic development and prosperity and, therefore, to security and stability in the OSCE region. We acknowledged that women share responsibility for income generation and economic stability and that their income has a multiplier effect given that it is more likely to be invested in their families and communities.

In this regard, I would like to underline the principle that maternity or paternity policies and childcare programmes are key elements in promoting equal employment opportunities and responsibility-sharing between women and men and enhancing the economic prosperity of women and their families.

But I am not here today only as the Rapporteur of the PA’s Human Dimension Committee, I am also here as a Member of Parliament from Cyprus and I will say few more words on our national experience. According to the United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) women should be active participants not only at the negotiating table but also in the post-conflict peace building processes.

As the peace negotiations are underway to arrive at a final settlement of the Cyprus conflict, the Gender Equality Technical Committee was created last year and it is committed, within its mandate, to produce ideas for structures that will safeguard gender equality and social rights not only for women but for all marginalized groups in our communities. The Committee will strive for the inclusion of gender equality provisions in all the issues under negotiations as well as in the future constitution, putting Cyprus in the lead of the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325.

Thank you for your attention.

¹http://www.insee.fr/en/publications-et-services/sommaire.asp?reg_id=0&ref_id=ECO478
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/men/relationships/fatherhood/11667855/Globally-men-still-arent-pulling-their-weight-at-home.html>