

Second day of the Thirteenth Meeting
MC(13) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

DECISION No. 14/05
WOMEN IN CONFLICT PREVENTION, CRISIS MANAGEMENT
AND POST-CONFLICT REHABILITATION

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security in addressing new threats and challenges and its commitment to gender mainstreaming, in line with the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality,

Recalling that the OSCE, as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, is a key instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation in its region,

Recognizing that the knowledge, skills and experience of both women and men are essential to peace, sustainable democracy, economic development and therefore to security and stability in the OSCE region,

Further recognizing that United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security links gender equality and security, focusing on the role of women in matters of peace and security at all levels,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

Emphasizing the importance of women's full and equal participation in all phases of conflict prevention, resolution and peace-building,

Acknowledging the need for concrete action by the OSCE to integrate women into conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation through its activities, *inter alia*, by:

1. Ensuring proactive implementation throughout the Organization of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, adopted by Permanent Council Decision No. 638 of 2 December 2004,

2. Integrating into the activities of the OSCE, as appropriate, the relevant parts of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on the role of women in all levels of conflict prevention, crisis management and resolution, and post-conflict rehabilitation,
3. Encouraging participating States to develop national rosters of potential women candidates (as called for in the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, paragraph 22) and take active steps to ensure that women are fully informed of and encouraged to apply for positions in the area of conflict prevention and post-conflict rehabilitation processes, in particular for senior management positions,
4. Calling on participating States to nominate more women as heads of institutions and missions, and to other senior positions in the OSCE,
5. Actively encouraging the recruitment of women to OSCE field presences, in particular to management positions, with the goal of having a substantial number of field presences headed by women,
6. Calling on participating States and OSCE structures, as appropriate, to support and encourage training and educational programmes focusing on women and girls, as well as projects aimed at women's participation in building sustainable peace; to empower women's organizations; to support women's peace initiatives through the media and workshops on human rights and gender equality; and to raise awareness among women concerning the importance of their involvement in political processes,
7. Calling on participating States and OSCE structures, as appropriate, to develop specific policies to encourage the full and equal participation of women and women's organizations in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation, as well as to encourage and support the sharing of experiences and best practices and, further, to engage with women's peace initiatives,
8. Calling on participating States to take into account the important role and the particular needs of women and girls in implementing government policies on protection and durable solutions including voluntary return, resettlement, rehabilitation, (re)integration or repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons in safety and dignity,
9. Recommending that participating States regularly evaluate their efforts at gender mainstreaming in conflict prevention, conflict management and rehabilitation processes, and make such evaluations public, to be used for gender-sensitive training purposes, and in implementation of relevant commitments as well as to increase awareness of their importance,

Decides to:

- Task the Secretary General in his annual progress report on the implementation of Permanent Council Decision No. 638 on the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality with making specific references to the implementation in the Organization of the parts of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) that are relevant to the OSCE;

- Task the Secretariat, in the context of the objectives of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, with developing in co-operation with participating States, further measures to substantially increase the number of women in the OSCE Secretariat, institutions and field operations, in particular at senior and policy-making levels;
- Task the OSCE structures and institutions with developing or adjusting relevant projects, strategies and initiatives, and conducting other activities, including exchanging information with the UN in order to fulfil the commitments contained in this decision;
- Invite OSCE participating States and the OSCE institutions to report at the Annual Security Review Conference also on the progress achieved in implementing the commitments contained in this decision.

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**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH 79
(CHAPTER 6) OF THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
HELSINKI CONSULTATIONS**

By the Delegation of the United States of America:

“Thank you. The United States supports the adoption of this decision. We would, however, like to clarify our views in relation to the reference in the text to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

The United States is firmly committed to the empowerment of women and the promotion of women’s fullest enjoyment of universal human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action express important political goals that the United States endorses. We reaffirm the goals, objectives, and commitments of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action based on several understandings. We understand these documents constitute an important policy framework that does not create international legal rights or legally binding obligations on States under international law.

During the 2005 meeting of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), there was international consensus that the Beijing documents create no new international rights, including a right to abortion, and this was confirmed by the CSW Chairperson.

Our reaffirmation of the goals, objectives, and commitments of these documents does not constitute a change in the position of the United States with respect to treaties we have not ratified.

The United States fully supports the principle of voluntary choice regarding maternal and child health and family planning. We have stated clearly and on many occasions, consistent with the ICPD, that we do not recognize abortion as a method of family planning, nor do we support abortion in our reproductive health assistance.

The United States understands that there is international consensus that the terms “reproductive health services” and “reproductive rights” do not include abortion or constitute support, endorsement, or promotion of abortion or the use of abortifacients.

The United States supports the treatment of women who suffer injuries or illnesses caused by legal or illegal abortion, including for example post-abortion care, and does not place such treatment among abortion-related services.

We are glad to join the nations assembled here in committing ourselves to tangible efforts on the ground devoted to continually helping women enjoy better, more free lives throughout the world.

We request that this interpretive statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you.”

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH 79
(CHAPTER 6) OF THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
HELSINKI CONSULTATIONS**

By the Delegation of the Holy See:

- “1. The Holy See is firmly committed to safeguarding and promoting women’s dignity, their human rights and fundamental freedoms, also in matters of peace and security, and therefore in all levels of conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.
2. In joining the consensus on the OSCE Ministerial Council Decision on Women in Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation, the Holy See reaffirms its reservations and statement of interpretation on the documents of the Fourth World Conference on Women, as included in the report of that Conference, and its statement of interpretation on the final documents of the twenty-third special session of the UN General Assembly. The Holy See, therefore, understands the references to the Beijing documents and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly in accordance with those reservations and statements. There are no changes in the position of the Holy See regarding the issues addressed therein.
3. The Holy See also understands that the Beijing documents do not establish any new human rights, or legally binding obligations.
4. The Holy See reserves its position regarding references to other international instruments mentioned in the Decision, consistent with its international obligations.
5. We request that this interpretative statement be attached to the journal of the day.”