

2007 HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING
WORKING SESSION 10
Warsaw, 1 October 2007
STATEMENT
DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

In spite of significant achievements in the area of gender equality both in legislature and its implementation, it is evident that women are still discriminated in many areas of public as well as private life. That is why the Republic of Croatia is doing its best to change the present situation and therefore has established a strong institutional and legal framework for the promotion of gender equality, starting from the amendments to the Constitution, whereby the principle of gender equality was recognized as a constitutional value.

In the past couple of years, we have adopted a significant number of laws in this field and under the one of them, namely the Gender Equality Act, the Croatian Parliament appointed its first ever Ombudsperson for Gender Equality and established the Governmental Office for Gender Equality, as well as Gender Equality Commissions on local levels throughout Croatia.

Croatia's National Policy for the Promotion of Gender Equality for the period 2006 – 2010 envisages a number of activities and policies in line with the measures foreseen in the Beijing Platform and the Plan for Action, as well as the CEDAW Committee's concluding comments for Croatia.

National Policy for the Promotion of Gender Equality for is also an essential part of the development of the Strategy for Equal Employment Opportunities. Among other goals, it serves to ensure equal opportunities for men and women on the labour market.

Furthermore, prevention of violence against women is an issue of particular importance for the Republic of Croatia since it is one of the fundamental preconditions for the achievement of gender equality and the elimination of power imbalance between women and men. Elimination of violence against women remains one of the most serious challenges of our time, and calls for joint and coordinated action of all states.

That is why, the Republic of Croatia actively participates in the Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence, within the framework of which had hosted a regional seminar on Men's Active Participation in Combating Domestic Violence. We feel that the active engagement of men and boys is crucial to bring about the change in attitudes towards violence.

Madame Chairperson, at the end allow me to mention that the Republic of Croatia is for the second time in a row a member of the UN Commission on the

Status of Women (CSW) and expert from Croatia Ms Dubravka Simonovic is at the moment Chair of the UN CEDAW Committee. Also on regional level, Croatia actively supported the inclusion of a future mandate for the Gender Task Force within the new Regional Cooperation Council which will replace the Stability Pact. As a result, the Gender Task Force will be able to continue functioning during this transitional period and beyond.

Thank you for your attention.