



REPRESENTATION PERMANENTE DE LA FRANCE

AUPRES DE L'O.S.C.E

Speech by the French delegation on Working Session 7:**Equality between men and women and the implementation of the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality**

1) De facto gender inequality still exists in France, despite strict laws to combat it and recent major efforts to stamp it out. Following the acquisition of recognized civil rights in France in 1944 and economic and social rights in the 70s and 80s, now is the time to define the rights to secure substantive gender equality.

The law of 4 August 2014 on substantive gender equality thus addresses inequalities between men and women in all areas where they still exist, such as the workplace, the home, during separations, violence, responsibilities, etc., and aims to implement the equal rights which have been enshrined in the texts for years by removing, one by one, the real-world barriers which women continue to encounter: unequal distribution of domestic tasks (via shared parental leave), unequal media representation of the roles and abilities of men and women (via powers given to the CSA (French broadcasting regulator) to hand out sanctions), de facto unequal number of leadership roles for men and women in companies, the civil service and politics (via the extension of gender parity rules to all areas).

2) Internationally, we are focusing our efforts on three major objectives: educational and political rights of girls and women; protection against violence, including sexual violence; sexual and reproductive rights. We must remain very alert to ensure that the major international texts on these issues do not lose their force. Implementing the sexual and reproductive rights adopted within the framework of the major UN conferences in the 1990s is essential in order to empower women and combat sexual violence. This enables women to decide freely and with due discernment on the number, timing and spacing of their children, and to have the means needed to exercise these voluntary choices; and to make decisions on reproduction free from discrimination, coercion or violence.

Finally, in June 2014 France hosted the Global Summit of Women (GSW) in order to further women's leadership in the business world. Each year, this Summit enables political and business leaders from around the world to get together and discuss strategies to ensure that women play a key role in the decisions of tomorrow. This is also the principal objective of the work carried out by UN Women within the framework of women's economic empowerment.

We call upon the OSCE to pursue its efforts towards a full implementation of the action plan for the promotion of gender equality, to reinforce universal access to women's rights and to take necessary measures to allow for the empowerment of women in every field.