

OSCE PA Vice-President Kari HENRIKSEN

**Remarks to the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Working Session 12
(Tuesday, 18 September 2018)**

The right of women migrants to integration into the work place

Thank you for the opportunity to represent the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and to emphasize the need to promote the integration of migrants and especially women migrants into the workplace.

Indeed, access to the labour market is key to integration and should be a primary consideration in national integration strategies.

Regrettably, workplace discrimination remains a significant concern in the OSCE region. Women migrants are particularly vulnerable as they are more likely to work in informal and unregulated sectors with low wages, such as the service sector, or to take on part-time jobs. Furthermore, due to language barriers or lack of adequate or accurate information, they may not enjoy equal access to services and workplace justice.

The OSCE PA has consistently called on OSCE participating States to **promote the education and economic empowerment of migrant and refugee women**.

In 2016, the PA also adopted a resolution "*Integrating gender-based analysis and gender mainstreaming in the response to the migrant and refugee crisis*" in which it recognized the benefit of initiatives to strengthen the resilience of refugee and migrant women, including programmes targeting economic empowerment.

The PA has also recognized the significant contribution made by female migrant workers to the economic and social development of countries of departure and destination in its 2013 resolution on the "*Gender aspects of labour migration*". One recommendation called upon OSCE participating States to implement gender-sensitive migration policies aimed at the creation of a political and legal environment conducive to equal opportunities of employment for both male and female migrants.

In my country, Norway, the participation of women in the work place has contributed as much if not more to our prosperity and GDP surplus than oil revenues. We offer introduction programmes for migrant women to give them the necessary language skills as this is a basic precondition for entry in the labour market.

Promoting the integration of migrant women by facilitating their access to the labour market will enhance this prosperity. Getting women into the work place is good for women, for integration and for society as a whole.

Thank you Ms. Moderator.