

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,  
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AT THE 1024th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

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**On the report on gender issues**

Mr. Chairperson,

We join in welcoming Ms. June Zeitlin, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Gender Issues, and Ambassador Miroslava Beham, Senior Adviser on Gender Issues. We appreciate the reports presented.

We note the considerable work undertaken by the Secretariat in this area. In the ten years that have elapsed since the adoption of the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, the situation as regards ensuring equal opportunities for men and women has improved both within the OSCE executive structures themselves and in the participating States. It is reassuring that, compared to other parts of the world, the OSCE area shows promise in this sphere.

We believe that in continuing to promote the policy of ensuring equal opportunities for women and men in all spheres of life, the OSCE could be a driving force for other international and regional organizations.

A serious analysis of the influence of the level of representation of men and women in a particular sphere on the development of society and its stability and security is a matter of priority. This is not about lamenting the “under-representation” of women in a particular area. Percentages are not our goal. If we take a percentage ratio among the population as a basis, why then are we not concerned about the under-representation of national minorities or representatives of various religions and social groups?

When assessing the gender situation it is necessary to take into account first and foremost the real contribution of men and women to the work of particular structures. The main thing is for political and administrative bodies to have suitable people, experts and specialists in their fields, regardless of their gender.

We still fail to understand the efforts within the OSCE to push United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 in its unduly expanded interpretation. We take the position

that the leading role in this regard should remain with the United Nations. As for national plans, the task of developing them undoubtedly lies first and foremost with the countries faced with armed conflicts. And this should involve not only the participation of women in conflict prevention, crisis management and resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation, but also measures to protect women and children against violence as the most vulnerable members of the civilian population.

The idea of establishing a network for exchanging experience and bringing together national experts on gender equality deserves attention. The Gender Equality Review Conference held in the summer showed that every country has something to share in terms of the implementation of OSCE commitments in this area.

When the Action Plan was developed ten years ago, OSCE commitments on ensuring equal opportunities for men and women in social and cultural spheres of life were undeservedly overlooked. Now we have an excellent opportunity to rectify these omissions during the development of the Addendum to the Action Plan. In particular, the OSCE could make a significant contribution to the practical solution of issues regarding the professional training of men and women at a time of growing unemployment, to protecting the rights of large families and single parents, and to providing social assistance to mothers or fathers of young children. We also should not forget about safeguarding the rights of those women who see family as their priority goal and main occupation.

Thank you for your attention.