

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting  
**Statement of Slovenia for Working Session 7: Tolerance and non-discrimination I,  
including equality of opportunity for women and men and the implementation of the  
OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality**  
Thursday, 25 September 2014

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the EU.

At first, we would like to underline the importance of the 10th anniversary of the OSCE Action Plan (GAP) for the Promotion of Gender Equality which is the basis of OSCE gender policy. We welcome the progress made on gender equality and empowerment of women in OSCE region. However, more remains to be done.

Society needs the equal participation of women. Women present half of world's population therefore their suggestions must be taken into consideration. By this society would benefit as a whole. By eliminating gender inequalities, providing good-quality education and raising the awareness of women and girls, including human rights education, women will be more empowered and enabled to participate on a more equal footing with men. In this way, women will be enabled to participate equally and fully play their role in society: in politics, business, decision making, peace-making, rule of law and at the local level etc. This will reduce poverty in general and improve life for all in all areas.

Slovenia attaches great importance to gender equality and empowerment of women both nationally and internationally.

Slovenia is among countries where women enjoy the highest levels of empowerment. Allow me to mention that in our newly appointed government 7 out of 16 ministers are women. However, we haven't yet achieved full gender equality.

This year a new strategic document for promotion of gender equality will be adopted for the next 8-years period (The National Programme for Equality between Women and Men). It will establish further actions to promote equality between women and men and achieve gender equality in all spheres of life. To enhance and promote in practice women's participation in public, political and economic life Slovenia has been carrying out several projects.

The pilot project "Mentoring day with a woman politician" enabled several interested women students to spend a working day with renowned women in politics (ministers and MPs). The aim of the project was to encourage young women to actively participate in society. Slovenian Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal opportunities has also launched a project "Balancing the gender relations". Its aims are to strengthen knowledge, capacities and raise awareness about gender relations, power and influence in institutions that contribute to gender equality in different fields.

Another project "Family friendly company" is aiming to encourage companies to be more open for coordination of private and professional life of women employees. The project has turned out as positive with regard to elimination of discrimination of women in the labour market. The project "Day for girls" encouraged girls to have an insight in jobs/occupations that are considered as masculine. The project encouraged girls to consider professions in the field of natural and technical science. Another project "Include.All" is aiming to promote knowledge and raise awareness about obstacles to gender equality in private enterprises among business leaders and managers.

Slovenia has been a vocal advocate for women's rights and gender equality also internationally. The promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls, including in

conflict and post-conflict situations, empowerment of women, gender equality, elimination of violence against women, enhancing the participation of women in public, political and economic life etc. has been a traditional priority in Slovenian foreign policy for several years.

Besides political dialogue on all levels, Slovenia has been supporting empowerment of women through international development cooperation. We stand ready to continue to promote gender equality both at national and international levels.

This year we mark 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of OSCE Action Plan which contributed to gender equality and empowerment of women in our region. Next year will be important for further promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women on global level. We will mark 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and 15th anniversary of UN Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. Beijing declaration and Platform for Action remains cornerstone document for achieving gender equality and empowerment of women. The resolution 1325 recognizes the link between durable peace, equal participation of men and women and inclusion of gender perspective in peace processes.

Next year a new universal UN post-2015 agenda will succeed MDGs. Without inclusion of human rights and empowerment of women, it cannot bring universal and global process. Slovenia thus strongly supports prominent inclusion of gender issues in SDGs and post-2015 agenda.

We encourage participating states, OSCE and other partners to continue to promote gender equality in its actions, raise awareness and educate about importance of gender equality and empowerment of women, both nationally and internationally.