



Statement by the Delegation of Slovenia
at the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Warsaw, 24 September 2013

Working Session 3: Tolerance and non-discrimination II

I am taking the floor in order to support our joint EU statement and to appreciate the work done so far by the OSCE in the field of gender equality and gender mainstreaming.

We thank the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on Gender Issues Ms June Zeitlin and Amb Miroslava Beham, Senior Adviser on Gender Issues, for their comprehensive reports throughout the year and note with appreciation the progress made by OSCE in gender mainstreaming.

Slovenia pays particular attention to gender equality and empowerment of women in its foreign and internal policy. In our foreign policy activities we devote particular attention to gender equality, empowerment of women, protection and promotion of their rights not only in the field of human rights, but also in economic and development cooperation and humanitarian assistance as well as, where relevant, in security policy. We will continue to highlight these issues in the future, also in the light of our candidacy to the UN Human Rights Council for the period 2016-2018.

We believe that also the OSCE should in all its dimensions integrate the elements of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and therefore support the preparations of the OSCE Wide Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

This year the international community devotes particular attention to gender equality and empowerment of women. The attention to the status and the role of women in the society is also a logical consequence of the developments in many countries around the world in the past two years. Women have been in the forefront in many Arab countries during the political transformation; therefore we welcome the decision



to dedicate the forthcoming OSCE- Mediterranean Conference to the role of women in public, political and economic life.

Violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread human rights violations. It is present and persists in every country, the OSCE participating States are no exception. Violence against women and girls is a form of discrimination that seriously violates and impairs the enjoyment by women and girls of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. It presents one of the major obstacles in achieving gender equality.

Slovenia is of the opinion that in prevention and elimination of violence against women it is important the following:

- awareness-raising and education, including human rights education,
- women's access to justice,
- accountability, end of impunity as well as the role of men and boys in the society.

I would conclude by saying no matter a girl or a boy in our families, they both shall have equal opportunities.