

**STATEMENT OF THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
ARMENIA**

- Working session 8: Tolerance and non-discrimination I, including:**  
– **Equal opportunity for women and men**  
– **Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender  
Equality**  
– **Violence against women**

*Delivered by Ms. Hasmik SIMONYAN, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic  
of Armenia*

Mr. Moderator,

The success of the Velvet Revolution of love and solidarity in Armenia last year has become possible to a considerable extent due to the active political participation and involvement of our women. From our experience we can reaffirm the key role of women in the political and social life of societies. With this in mind the Government of Armenia has been advancing equal rights and opportunities for women and men through developing the respective normative framework, actions plans and building up institutional capacities. Besides the Law “**On ensuring equal rights and equal opportunities for women and men**” the legal basis has been enhanced by the adoption of the “**Law on prevention of violence within the family, protection of victims of violence within the family and restoration of peace in the family**”, followed by the signature of the **Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence** in December 2017. As regards the political participation of women, higher quota for women representation in elective bodies has been set (25 percent instead of former 20), and following the gradual approach 30 percent representation has been prescribed for next elections. At the same time it is important to mention about the increased participation of women in decision-making, including through information and communication technologies. This is, inter alia, due to the high proportion of women among editors of newspapers and magazines, as well as among spokespersons of state officials and heads of information units.

We highly value that Armenia Cooperation Program ensures continuity of programs of the OSCE Office in Yerevan. With regard to the promotion and protection of women's rights we would like to distinguish the program on economic empowerment of women, aiming to provide support to women in vulnerable conditions in implementation of their economic activities, which was discussed with and positively assessed by the **Coordinator of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities Ms. Teresa Albano** during her visit to Armenia in June this year.

Women are strong agents of change for peace and security. Peace and security efforts are more sustainable when women are equal partners in the prevention of violent conflicts, the delivery of relief and recovery efforts, as well as in contributing to the lasting and durable solutions. It is necessary to recall in this regard the recently inaugurated "Women for Peace" campaign, which aims to be an inclusive platform for women and mothers to promote peace and reconciliation in the conflict torn areas in our region and beyond. This is an illustrative example of the participation of women in the peace building efforts.

One of the recent achievements registered in Armenia regarding women's rights is the adoption of the **First National Action Plan on the implementation of the UN SC resolution 1325** in February, 2019, preceded by a broad consultative process with active participation of government agencies, civil society and international organizations, including OSCE. Armenia considers the implementation of the resolution in the overall context of promoting women's rights with particular focus on vulnerable women from border communities, affected by conflict, displaced women and those under risk of displacement.

At international level Armenia will advance the agenda of protecting and advancing women's rights and strengthening their role in public life also through the chairmanship in the UN Commission on the Status of Women for the 64<sup>th</sup> and 65<sup>th</sup> Sessions. Globally we will soon be celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which represents an important opportunity for assessment of the record of our national and international efforts in this area.

We have the following recommendations:

*Warsaw, September 20, 2019*

- To participating states and relevant authorities we recommend to provide enabling conditions for the promotion of gender equality,
- To OSCE respective structures we recommend to continue assisting the countries in their efforts to empower women taking into account specific needs of Member States.

Thank you.