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11 May 2004

ENGLISH only

To: All Delegations
Secretariat

Please find attached the summary of the meeting of the **Informal Working Group on Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking** held on 3 May 2004.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Amb. Kongshem, Dr. Gracheva". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Amb. Kongshem, Dr. Gracheva
Co-Chairs of the Group

**Summary
of the meeting of the Informal Working Group
on Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking**

3 May 2004

*Co-chairs: Ambassador Mette Kongshem (NORWAY)
Dr. Vera Gracheva (RUSSIAN FEDERATION)*

1. Introduction by the Co-Chairs:

The *Co-Chair (Norway)* stated that the main goal of the meeting was to discuss the Draft 2004 Action Plan on Gender Issues (APGI). She recalled that an outline of the APGI had been agreed upon in January/February. Thereafter, the Co-Chairs had conducted several bilateral consultations. Both Co-Chairs thanked all delegations, ODIHR, OSCE institutions and missions for their valuable inputs. The Co-Chair (Norway) continued by presenting Ms. Chambalu (agenda item 2) who would make a presentation on gender issues in UNIDO.

2. Presentation by Ms. Chambalu, previous Women Co-ordinator in UNIDO, on Gender Mainstreaming within the United Nations, with special emphasis on UNIDO:

Ms. Chambalu first noted that the United Nations had been dealing with the issue of gender mainstreaming since 1975. She mentioned that the UN had set up several structures to assist in the mainstreaming and promotion of gender equality. She added, however, that it had been easier to raise awareness of the issue in those UN institutions which had a social mandate, such as the ILO, UNDP, UNESCO and FAO. *Ms. Chambalu* continued by stating that due to external pressure, in 1984, UNIDO established a focal point for the integration of women in industry. She had been designated as the focal point. In 1986, UNIDO established a Unit for the Integration of Women in Industrial Development and *Ms. Chambalu* became its Co-ordinator. The Unit was furthermore composed of five professional staff and two general service staff members. She noted that they had organized several expert group meetings as well as developed guidelines for gender analysis in UNIDO's operational and research activities and training programmes. *Ms. Chambalu* stated that people's interest in the topic could be divided into three distinct groups. First, there was a small minority which tried very hard to promote the issue. Second, there was a group which listened to the problems pertaining to the issue. And third, there was a hardcore opponents group, which did not understand the issue at all. She noted that they had relied heavily on voluntary funding. She referred to the 1995 Beijing conference devoted also to the integration of women in industry, however, not much had changed after the conference. *Ms. Chambalu* stated that after the restructuring of UNIDO, the Unit was abolished. In conclusion, she listed three points which were necessary to allow gender mainstreaming to be successful: an enabling environment; institutional capacity building and accountability.

The *Co-Chair (Norway)* noted that, contrary to the situation at UNIDO, the OSCE was very interested in gender issues. She also added that the three points which *Ms. Chambalu* listed as being necessary to allow successful gender mainstreaming had been considered carefully when working on the OSCE's AP.

3. General Discussion of the Draft 2004 Action Plan on Gender Issues, and first reading of Chapter I and II : The *Co-Chair (Norway)* introduced the draft and underlined that the aim of the APGI was two-fold, first to promote equality between men and women in the OSCE and second, to transcend this equality also in projects and programmes through mainstreaming. She also stressed the importance of the cross-dimensional approach. She noted that Chapter 1 dealt with the commitments of the 2000 AP and its implementation or lack of implementation. She recalled that the 2000 AP had not included benchmarks nor provisions. Chapter 2 outlined the aims and scope of the AP. Chapter 3 was dedicated to measures for promoting gender equality in OSCE as well as strengthening gender mainstreaming. Chapter 4 elaborated on the role of the participating States. Chapter 5 focused on supporting the participating States in implementing relevant commitments on promoting gender equality. Chapter 6 was dedicated to a general follow-up. The *Co-Chair (Russian Federation)* informed delegations that the discussion on a PC draft decision concerning the AP would follow at a later stage. *Delegations* entered into a drafting mode. The Co-Chair's took note of the comments and mentioned they would revise the text accordingly so that it could be discussed at the next drafting session, which will take place on 8 June at 15.00 hrs. The Swedish Ombudsman for Gender Issues will make a presentation at this meeting.

4. Any other business:

None.