

PC.DEL/931/14
23 July 2014

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AT THE
OSCE GENDER EQUALITY REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Vienna, 10 and 11 July 2014

Working Session I: A Gender Perspective in Crisis Management

Madam Chairperson,

Ensuring a true balance between the rights of men and women remains an extremely important task for the international community. Achieving gender equality is also a priority for the Russian Federation. Our country has consistently and unwaveringly fulfilled its international commitments in this area.

The violence that women and girls can be subjected to during armed conflicts may take various forms. We believe that the problem of sexual violence is particularly relevant in the case of individual conflict situations in several countries where this phenomenon is, unfortunately, becoming widespread. We believe that crimes of sexual violence committed at any point during an armed conflict fall primarily under the jurisdiction of national governments.

We must bear in mind that sexual violence is not the only crime committed during armed conflict. Civilians, and these are often women and children, fall victim to other heinous crimes as well: premeditated attacks, including terrorist attacks, as well as the indiscriminate and excessive use of force.

Although considerable achievements have been made in this regard within the United Nations, we would call for us not to get carried away with transferring them mechanically to the OSCE area. As we know, far from all of the United Nations Secretariat's labours are approved by States. A clear example of this are what are known as the "indicators to track implementation" of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), which are often controversial, to say the least.

We should also like to note that events in Ukraine are, in many ways, forcing OSCE participating States to take a fresh look at the problem of violence against women in armed conflicts. The victims among women and children and the fact that many refugees are women force us to call on the Ukrainian authorities to implement the requirements of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), and to comply with the norms of international humanitarian law.