



PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING
STATEMENT BY NORWAY

TOLERANCE AND NON-DISCRIMINATION
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OSCE ACTION PLAN FOR THE
PROMOTION OF GENDER EQUALITY / ROLE OF WOMEN IN
CONFLICT PREVENTION AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT
WORKING SESSION 4

Warsaw, October 4, 2006

Madame Moderator,

There is a strong link between gender equality, security and prosperity. It is an established fact that the countries which offer women the most equal opportunities are the same countries that are the most competitive and yield the best economic results. It is also our experience in Norway that sustainable development depends on the creativity, talents and experience of both women and men. Through systematic legal and social reforms in our country, women have been empowered and been increasingly active in working life. This is, however, still an ongoing process, and sharing experiences in international foras like this, is very valuable.

With the adoption of the OSCE Gender Action Plan in 2004, equality between men and women has been put squarely on the OSCE agenda. One and a half year is not sufficient to implement fundamental changes but Norway appreciates

the efforts made so far. However, for the Organization to become a credible partner advocating gender equality and gender mainstreaming, it has to put its own house in order. There are still too few women in decision making positions in the OSCE. Beside the apparent need for participating States to put forward female candidates, more could be done to make the OSCE more attractive as a working place for women:

- The Secretariat, Institutions and Missions should increase the awareness on gender sensitive issues in their introduction programmes and training.
- OSCE staff regulations should be reviewed in order to create a more family friendly and gender sensitive working environment.

Madame Moderator,

Norway was among the first countries to draw up an Action Plan for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. Through this Action Plan we will strengthen, coordinate and systemize Norwegian international efforts to promote peace, security and democracy. The action plan will be revised once a year, based on the experiences from relevant national authorities and other interested actors. You will find an English version of our plan in the hallway outside.

The strong link between gender equality and security was a main component of the OSCE Gender Action Plan. It also reflects all the principles laid down in Security Council Resolution 1325 – and highlights the need to increase women's role in decision-making, conflict prevention and resolution.

As Dr. Helga Hernes pointed out at this years' Annual Security Review Conference - the integration of women in both international and national security forces has wide ranging positive implications. The presence and

participation of women in the security sector has proven to be crucial in bringing about successful operations and preventing criminal behaviour.

Norway would like to support Dr. Hernes proposal at the ASRC, to integrate the security perspectives of Resolution 1325 more explicitly into the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-first Century.

Thank you, Madame Moderator.