

Canadian Delegation to the
Organization for Security & Cooperation
in Europe



Délégation du Canada auprès de
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération
en Europe

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**JOINT INTERVENTION BY THE OSCE DELEGATIONS OF CANADA,
ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN, NORWAY AND SWITZERLAND
DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR FREDERICKA GREGORY
ON THE PRESENTATION BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ANNUAL
REPORT ON THE 2004 OSCE ACTION PLAN FOR THE PROMOTION OF
GENDER EQUALITY
775TH MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
24 SEPTEMBER 2009**

Madame Chairperson,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and Canada.

We would like to thank the Secretary General for his thorough presentation of the Annual Evaluation Report on the implementation of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality.

We acknowledge that very positive and substantial progress has been achieved with the implementation of the Action Plan. However, several challenges remain and more can and should be done. The Report contains a good number of recommendations and solutions that could address issues and further improve the situation of gender equality within the Organisation.

As the OSCE Secretariat is dependant on the recruitment of staff provided by participating States, we encourage participating States to conduct a gender analysis when assigning secondees to the OSCE, and give the necessary assistance to field operations to improve the implementation of Gender Mainstreaming in project management, which is a long standing goal. Increasing alertness on potential violations of the policy on the professional working environment can only be viewed positively.

Moreover, and as is stipulated by UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, there must be a renewed focus on ensuring that gender equality concerns are better incorporated into the three OSCE dimensions, with a particular emphasis on the political-military dimension. Further, in 2005, the Ministerial Council adopted a Decision on Women in Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation, which, together with the 2004 Action Plan, provides a solid framework for the promotion of gender equality into the Organization's first dimension.

We also recognize the challenges associated with gender mainstreaming and continue to encourage efforts to develop practical tools for gender analysis and to provide technical assistance for field operations. The formulation of gender-equality results and gender-sensitive indicators are an important component of the OSCE project cycle. We would encourage the strengthening of the OSCE's capacity to effectively formulate and report on these results, which are intrinsically linked to the use of gender analysis throughout the project life-cycle.

In closing, we would like to take this opportunity to encourage all participating States to redouble their efforts in meeting the broad objectives and commitments to the Gender Action Plan and to increase gender equality awareness within the OSCE.

Thank you Madame Chairperson.