



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

Working Session 14 Tolerance and non-discrimination III

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting Warsaw, 19 – 30 September 2016

Ms. / Mr. Moderator,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

Last year we marked two important anniversaries on gender equality and the empowerment of women - the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 15th anniversary of the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. We also adopted the 2030 Development Agenda with its stand-alone goal on gender equality and the gender perspective woven into all its other goals. It is now incumbent upon us to implement these important commitments, including in the OSCE area.

Slovenia has consistently promoted gender equality, the empowerment of women and their rights both at home and in its foreign policy. I am pleased to be able to share with you that as of last week the composition of the Slovenian government is predominantly female as women ministers are now in the majority following the swearing in of our new finance minister.

This welcome development did not occur in a vacuum. Slovenia has been consistently developing and updating its normative framework. In 2015 a new resolution was adopted on the National Programme for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for the next five years, and in May this year, a new Protection Against Discrimination Act came into force. Also, several governmental and non-governmental activities were carried out to enhance the share of women in decision-making positions in businesses, where women are still at a disadvantage. Our focus is on supporting women in entrepreneurship, overcoming gender stereotypes in career choices and on a better reconciliation of work and private life, including through the promotion of active fatherhood.

Slovenia believes that gender equality is not just a women's issue. Therefore we welcome and actively support the OSCE initiative "MenEngage Network", whose goal is to encourage men to take part in the OSCE action to achieve gender equality.

In order to further promote gender equality and empower women in OSCE participating states, the OSCE 2004 Gender Action Plan needs updating. Slovenia supports additional efforts to adopt an addendum as tasked by the Basel Ministerial Council in 2014. We would also like to see the adoption of the OSCE-Wide Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security that was initiated by Austria, Finland, Kazakhstan and Turkey three years ago.

In conclusion, Slovenia remains fully committed to continuing the promotion of gender equality, the empowerment of women and the furtherance of their rights. Thank you.