



SLOVAKIA

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STATEMENT

by

H. E. Mr. Miloš KOTREC
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Slovakia

54th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Achievements and challenges in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action
in the Slovak Republic

8 March 2010
New York

Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations

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SLOVAKIA

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STATEMENT

by

H. E. Mr. Milan Kolář
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Permanent Representative
of Slovakia

24th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

in the Slovak Republic

8 March 2010
New York

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my honour to address the Commission on the status of women. Slovakia aligns itself with the statement made by the Slovak Republic to the European Union

Celebrating the 15 years anniversary of adoption of the Declaration is a great occasion for only evaluation of accomplished goals but also for highlighting shortcomings and challenges we have been facing.

In my brief presentation I would like to point out main achievements Slovakia has accomplished in 15

Mr Chair,

We do believe that progress towards eradication of gender inequality much depends on political environment and attention paid to various issues. Therefore we do consider as an important progress the inclusion of the commitment from 2000 for the first time emphasized and declared gender equality as one of the main priorities of the Government of Slovakia. The Government undertook an obligation to promote equality as an important factor for the development of democracy and the realization of human rights.

As a follow up to the Beijing Platform for Action in 1997 the Government of the Slovak Republic adopted the National Action Plan for the period 2000-2007. This document was one of the main programme documents of the Slovak Republic and after its expiration in 2007 was replaced by the National Gender Equality Strategy for the Period 2009-2013, which focuses on the equality of women and men as a horizontal and universal social and political priority. The strategy is to incorporate the gender aspect in the design and implementation of policies at all levels and stages of management.

The fourth critical area of the Beijing Platform for Action deals with the issue of violence against women. In this regard I would like to note that Slovakia has made a number of significant progressive changes in the field of prevention and elimination of violence against women. The Government started the systematic work on tackling the issues of violence against women in 2004 by adopting the National Strategy for Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women and in Families.

Regarding to legislative framework one of the main achievements in the field of gender equality and equal opportunities was adoption of the *Anti-Discrimination Act*. It comprehensively regulates the implementation of the principle of equal treatment and stipulates the legal instruments of the protection for the victims of discrimination.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite all the progress, there are still many areas of concern such as unequal share of the unpaid labor at home, gender imbalances in decision making, strong gender stereotypes, which leads to gender segregation in education and consequently also in the labor market. All of this demonstrates that progress in the field of gender equality requires a long lasting process.

On this day, Slovakia Welcomes the EU's initiative for enhanced ten-year wide coherence, particularly the creation of a new composite unit of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and the consolidation of four existing UN bodies into one composite entity with strategic competence for the central and universal operation of the gender equality architecture of the UN system. We hope that this significant structural reform will provide the real universal support to women and girls across the world. Slovakia is also convinced that the new gender entity will represent strong global support to national efforts to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women, thus leading also to the rise of the effectiveness of national mechanisms dealing with gender issues.

Thank you.