



SLOVENIA

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**STATEMENT
BY**

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Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me first to express Slovenia's full alignment with the statement delivered by Spain on behalf of the European Union.

The Beijing Conference was a crucial milestone in the advancement of women's rights. My government, non-governmental organisations, in particular women's organisations and other relevant actors have responded to the challenges set in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in many strategic and practical ways and many practical measures. Significant progress has been achieved.

Let me briefly outline some of the gains and challenges ahead in some important areas.

To translate the letter and the spirit of international human rights law, in 2005, a series of steps were made. Specifically, the Gender Equality Act of 2002 was complemented with the adoption of the general anti-discrimination Act of 2004. That act provides a basis for recognizing and prohibiting all forms of sex and gender based discrimination and intersecting forms of discrimination against women.

Prohibition of discrimination against women on the grounds of sexual orientation gained a new legal guarantee in the Draft Family Code which was recently submitted to the national parliament for consideration and adoption. It equalizes, in all elements, the civil partnership with marriage that is now defined as a partnership between two persons of the same or opposite sex, and recognizes the legal consequences of the partnership between persons of the same sex, who are not married.

To comply with the principle of equal participation in decision-making, the so called quotas targeting the gender composition of the electoral lists were introduced in an Electoral Act. However, after first elections held upon the enactment of such provisions it became apparent that more attention has to be given to reducing structural disadvantages and overcoming gender stereotypes and prejudices that are perpetuating under-representation of women or women in the provincial council.

Gender-based violence, including domestic violence, is recognized as a form of discrimination that seriously inhibits women's ability to enjoy their rights and freedoms on a basis of equality with men. Thus, prevention of violence against women and protection of victims have been constantly scaled up. The adoption of the Domestic Violence Prevention Act in 2008 and the Resolution on National Programme on Prevention of Domestic Violence in 2009 are one of the results of the intensified government's efforts to end all forms and manifestations of violence against women.

One of the important decisions taken by the Government was also to act as a role model in guaranteeing a working environment free of any violation to dignity of a person. A positive example for other employers the Government adopted a Decree on ensuring dignity at work, which obliges all ministries and government offices to actively prevent any violation to dignity of a person, such as sexual harassment and bullying. The duty to ensure the requirements under the Decree in ministries and government offices is performed by a specially trained person to support victims of such forms of violence at work.

with the foundation of the 2005 National Programme for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, gender equality policy gained a new momentum. The achievement of substantive gender equality and the empowerment of women have been increasingly understood and acknowledged as a joint and common effort of society as a whole, while all branches of the State and all levels of government.

The action plans for implementing the equality national programme was already completed. The more systematic evaluation of the situation, formulation and adoption of comprehensive range of legal and programmatic measures and variety of actions carried out, as well as building on them continuously, in light of their effectiveness and new or emerging issues are instrumental in meeting the objectives set.

For the implementation of the laws, the laws and policies and programmes continue to lag regrettably behind the ambitious commitments made in Beijing.

Mr. Chairperson,

The report of the Secretary-General identifies gaps and challenges in regard to each of the twelve critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action. I would like to highlight three points which my Government views as pertinent to the realisation of Beijing objectives.

First on the social and cultural norms. Substantive gender equality. While acknowledging that it cannot be realized by short-term measures, we are not indifferent to that culture and tradition which often reinforce the notion of women being inferior to men, are used as an excuse for maintaining the unequal division of labour, power and responsibilities between women and men.

My second point concerns the cognitive role that education and the media should undertake in countering the traditional division of roles between women and men and in preventing newly emerging stereotypes in areas of care instances where women made gains.

Men and women humanity is not divided into separate groups for women and girls. Men and boys are also affected and their involvement in the process of change is instrumental.

Mr. Chairperson,

We need to translate our binding commitments into swift undertaking of uncompromising implementation of the Platform for Action. It is a world home for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Effective implementation of this mandate requires creation of the new composite entity without any further delay.

I thank you for your attention.