



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE REPORT BY THE SECRETARY
GENERAL ON THE GENDER ACTION PLAN**

As delivered by Counsellor Hilde Austad
to the Permanent Council,
Vienna, 3 July 2014

Mr Chairman,

At the tenth anniversary of the Gender Action Plan, we note the past decade's important progress. We commend all parts of the OSCE structure for their efforts in this regard. At the same time, there is ample evidence throughout the OSCE that important challenges persist. The 10th anniversary should be used to further intensify our work to tackle these challenges.

Mr Chairman,

We welcome the Swiss Chairmanship's efforts towards better coordination of the OSCE's work on gender issues, in partnership with the Secretariat's Gender Section, ODIHR, and the Special Representative on Gender Issues. Better coordination and cooperation within the OSCE is important to fulfil our gender equality commitments. We particularly look forward to next week's Gender Equality Review Conference, and commend the cooperation between the Chairmanship, the Secretariat, and ODIHR in organizing the event. We are pleased that a Norwegian representative will give the keynote address on women's economic empowerment at the conference.

Mr Chairman,

A lot has happened since 2004, and we repeat our call for updating the Gender Action Plan to bring it in line with new realities and challenges. To this effect, we fully support the Secretary General's recommendation to endorse an outcome document from the Gender Equality Review Conference, with a view to modernizing and complimenting the Gender Action Plan.

Mr Chairman,

We welcome the trend of an increased proportion of women in management positions within the OSCE. There is nevertheless a long way to go before men and women are equally represented. Further efforts are needed to increase the number of women, especially in senior level positions.

The Politico-Military dimension of security continues to lag behind when it comes to gender equality. We recognize efforts made by the Secretariat, the Institutions and Field Offices to strengthen their gender focus in the first dimension, and stand ready to support a further intensification of this work.

Mr Chairman,

We applaud the Secretariat's work towards creating an implementation strategy for the Gender Action Plan. We agree with other speakers that we must continue to give priority to gender mainstreaming, and we believe an overarching implementation strategy for the Gender Action Plan is crucial in this respect.

Mr Chairman,

Let me conclude by saying that we look forward to continue discussions on the Gender Action Plan and its implementation at next week's conference.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.