



Statement by Ambassador Andrej Benedejčič, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia, on the Secretary General's 2015 Annual Evaluation Report on the Implementation of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, at the 1110th Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council, Vienna, 21 July 2016

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to thank the Secretary General Zannier for presenting a very comprehensive report. I would also like to thank the Senior Gender Adviser, Ambassador Beham, as well as the entire Gender Section team for the valuable work. We appreciate it.

Slovenia fully subscribes to the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. In addition, I would like to make a few remarks in my national capacity. In our view, the report shows that despite everything, we have managed to come a long way. This is especially evident in Chapter 3, which clearly demonstrates our joint progress in the implementation of the concept of mentoring networks. The overview of information, lessons learned and good practices from the OSCE participating States is impressive. We therefore welcome this innovative approach and encourage the Secretariat to continue with its efforts.

At the same time, it is also true that a number of challenges remain. As pointed out in the report, we face the need to modernize the twelve years old OSCE Gender Action Plan in order to become more systematic, comprehensive and effective in our actions. Slovenia regrets that no consensus on the proposed draft Addendum was reached last year. I would therefore like to use this opportunity to call on colleagues to make the necessary step that would allow us to build further on the existing work.

Mr. Chairperson,

It is important that gender equality remains high on the OSCE agenda, both here in Vienna and out in the field. In this context, it is also important to continue challenging entrenched gender stereotypes. As the Chair of the OSCE MenEngage Network I therefore intend to present here in the coming months the results of a project that took place in Slovenia over the past year and a half, called "Fathers and Employers in Action". It focused on the de-feminization of work-life balance processes, by identifying challenges associated with equal fatherhood in family life and the needs of the employed fathers. I believe this is important, because with equal fatherhood and inclusion in family life men strive to overcome traditional gender roles. Lessons-learned should be therefore also interesting for the OSCE.

Thank you.