

Statement by Mrs. Sanja Milinkovic, deputy Head of Permanent Mission of
the Republic of Serbia to the OSCE at the Human Dimension Meeting
Working session – Tolerance and non-discrimination including equality of
opportunity for women and men and the implementation of the OSCE

Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality

Warsaw, 25 September 2014

In numerous OSCE documents Participating States confirmed determination to ensure equal rights of men and women, and accordingly to take all necessary measures to promote equally effective participation of men and women in political, economic, social and cultural life, making gender equality an integral part of our policies. Most of them were addressed in the Gender Action Plan. However, as it appears to be obvious at the Gender Equality Review Conference that took place this July - ten years after the adoption of the Gender Action Plan, both the OSCE executive structures and Participating States face challenges that are still as valid today as they were then.

Despite the fact that there is a number of other international organizations dealing with gender empowerment, we believe that OSCE is well placed to promote, advance and address the issues of gender equality from the perspective of security and stability in our area. Indeed, its cross-dimensional approach to security opens opportunity for incorporating gender perspective in each and every activity of the Organization.

We believe that there is plenty of room for improving gender mainstreaming both at the national level, but in our Organization as well. Diversified mandates of existing structures in dealing with gender are an added value of the OSCE. We agree with those participants who emphasized that there is a need to strengthen institutional mechanisms of the OSCE and to raise profile of gender mainstreaming. Therefore, we fully support efforts undertaken by our Swiss colleagues in negotiating draft ministerial decision on addendum to Gender Action Plan. We are confident that adoption of Ministerial decision would contribute to addressing problems relating to gender equality both at national and international level.