

ԵԱՀԿ-ՈՒՄ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ
ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՄՇՏԱԿԱՆ
ՆԵՐԿԱՅԱՑՈՒՑՉՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ



PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF
ARMENIA TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT

**In response to the presentation by the Secretary General
of the Annual Progress Report on the Implementation
of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality
as delivered by the Delegation of Armenia
at the 1482nd meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council**

11 July 2024

Madame Chair,

The delegation of Armenia warmly welcomes distinguished Secretary General, H.E. Helga Schmidt and thanks her for presenting the Annual Progress Report on the implementation of the 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality.

In recent years the Government of Armenia has initiated a number of executive and legislative reforms, and elaborated national action plans related to the advancement of women. Combating domestic and gender based violence has also received resolute action. Armenia has enacted the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence, Protection of the Victims of Domestic Violence and Restoring of Solidarity within Families which aims at combating domestic violence by introducing criminal and administrative liability against those found guilty.

Armenia is taking relevant steps to ensure the promotion of women and their full, equal and meaningful participation in all spheres of public life. At present, the Armenian Parliament has achieved a record of more than 35% of women in the legislature, which is a major step towards achieving gender equality and empowerment of women in the political sphere.

Madame Chair,

Women, Peace and Security agenda and the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 is also among the priorities of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. Armenia promotes full and equal participation of women including in the defence sector as a key prerequisite for sustainable and lasting peace. To this end, last year Armenia's National Assembly passed a law on women's voluntary service in the military. The new law gives women aged 18-27 the opportunity to voluntarily sign up for 6 months of service.

Madame Chair,

As we mark the 20th Anniversary of the Action Plan it should be recalled that the OSCE participating States committed themselves to address gender-based violence against women and girls, especially in the context of armed conflicts.

In this regard it is deplorable that in the 21st century, women continue to face persistent and unacceptable levels of violence, abuse, and torture. In recent years in our region, during the war of aggression against Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia, and during the recent ethnic cleansing we witnessed growing violence against women, which in concrete cases amounted to atrocities, the brutality of which goes beyond any elementary norms of the civilized world, let alone international humanitarian law.

In closing, Madam Chair, we would like to emphasize that Human rights of women and their empowerment are universal and should not be addressed and treated in a selective manner. Ignoring this reality will neither be helpful nor effective for upholding the credibility and integrity of our Organization.

Thank you.