

SLOVENIA

STATEMENT

by

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Madam Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, and outcome documents of the review of its 5-year implementation paved the way of the last nine and half year process of making gender equality a natural and important part of social development in Slovenia. In addition, this process was fuelled by keeping the link of our efforts to achieve the objectives and implement the commitments made at other global conferences and summit meetings, which have created the so called Global Agenda for Development, and the Beijing process.

In Slovenia meeting the challenges and assuming obligations in the post-Beijing process was marked by two main sets of activities.

The first set of activities was related to legislative area. To eliminate inequalities between women and men and to modernize the social contract between them and generations and between the state and citizens we introduced equal treatment and gender equality provisions into the new acts on social protection, employment relations and family life.

In action to fight against gender-based violence legislative changes were introduced for protection of women victims of violence and the Constitution and electoral legislation were amended to promote gender balanced representation in public and political decision-making.

In addition, special gender equality and equal treatment legislation, aimed at encompassing the differences and interrelation of the two components of the gender equality international standards — anti-discrimination and equality between women and men - was developed. The two new acts, one specially aimed to promote gender equality, and the other being a general act ensuring implementation of the equal treatment principle in all walks of life, provided a comprehensive gender equality policy and equal treatment policies framework.

They introduced legal basis and positive obligation for positive measures, obliged the government to apply the principle of gender mainstreaming and adopt national programme to promote gender equality, strengthened the role of the government Office for Equal Opportunities, assigned duties as regard consideration of complaints in relation to equal opportunities for women and men and other anti-discrimination rules to two separate bodies and laid down the basis for the establishment of the National Council for Equality.

The second set of activities was an essential first step with regard to awareness and as basis for policy development and implementation. It included analysis and research work, which helped us keeping records of and understand current imbalances between women and men in policy fields and develop prognoses on how future initiatives and measures will affect them.

With the research work we deepened and redefined our actions for empowerment of women and gender equality policy process in various areas of social life. To overcome cultural barriers and alter the perception we focused on designing and implementing communication strategies, among them the provision of information on existing and new legislation, including international legal standards, that improve the status of women and guarantee and promote gender equality.

To increase knowledge and strengthen awareness we were showing results and good examples or highlighted negative practices, to which we have to respond by using the available measures in all their capacity. The most recent work within this set of actions is aimed to changes in the role of men in family responsibilities and in the role of women in decision-making.

Madam Chairperson,

Slovenia is a small country, therefor we can not expect to have a decisive role in the front line of addressing the prevailing problems and issues observed, addressed and decided upon in the international arena. But transformation of existing collective commitments into practical actions takes place separately in each of our countries and we believe that the quality of our national performance and quantity and quality of its results qualifies us as a protagonist in the creation and management of a world factory producing new challenges and visions, in which gender equality will not be only a goal in itself but an absolute principle guiding the future development.

Thank you for your attention.