



STALNA MISIJA CRNE GORE PRI UJEDINJENIM NACIJAMA
PERMANENT MISSION OF MONTENEGRO TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT

by H.E. Mr. Ferhat Dinosa
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at the

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Please check against delivery

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman

At the outset, let me express on behalf of the Government of Montenegro our deepest condolences and solidarity with people of Chile and Haiti regarding the tragic loss of lives and properties in those countries caused by recent earthquakes.

Mr. Chairman,

It gives me a great pleasure and honour to address the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women on behalf of the Government of Montenegro. In particular, it is a pleasure for me to be for the first time at such an important event, which will address the 15 years review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

We align ourselves with the statement delivered by delegation of Spain on behalf of the European Union.

The Government of Montenegro reaffirms its commitments towards achievement of goals set in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and takes all necessary steps in order to fully reach gender equality.

This meeting provides us with the opportunity to discuss gender sensitive policies in different areas of concern, review progress made, and to address new challenges and opportunities for gender equality as well.

The implementation of gender equality requests not only the adoption of appropriate legislation and strengthening of institutional mechanisms but also putting into practice those principles.

Mr. Chairman,

Government of Montenegro recognizes the significant role of non-governmental organizations who highly contribute to the advancement of women's rights and achievement of gender equality in Montenegro.

Over the past decade, there has been considerable progress towards gender equality in the Montenegro, with increasing understanding of the issue and efforts to integrate gender component into key government policies and processes.

Improvements have been made in development and adoption of legislation, primarily the Constitutions of Montenegro which was adopted in 2007, and the Law on Gender Equality adopted the same year. In addition, we are continuously working on engendering national and local strategies, action plans and other policies, in compliance with the international standards in this field. The Action Plan for Achievement of Gender Equality for the period 2008-2012 represents the framework for development and implementation of gender equality policy at the national level in eight areas of concern, which are in line with the Beijing Platform for Action. The Government of Montenegro adopted the Initial Report on the Implementation of the Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, at its session held in February 2010.

Mr. Chairman,

Mechanism for gender equality of the Government of Montenegro has been working since its founding, in 2003, on the advancement of women in Montenegro in different areas such as: education, health, violence against women, economy, media, culture, politics etc., and have achieved success in many aspects. Gender equality, as a human rights issue, is increasingly recognised by the society as a whole. Beside the Governmental mechanism for gender equality great contribution is given by the Parliamentary Committee for Gender Equality, which has recently strengthened its activities. In addition to that we are constantly working on empowerment of local institutions to integrate gender in their work.

However, there is still much work to be done and we have many challenges ahead as well.

In Montenegro, women remain under-represented in decision-making and in the Parliament, and therefore this will be one of the areas we will place our emphasis on, in the future work. Domestic violence and violence against women is the issue of high importance and thus we will put greater efforts in its combating. Continued efforts need to be made in the field of labour and employment, since the economic independence of women is of key importance for the achievement of all other rights.

Mr. Chairman,

Montenegro strongly supports and welcomes the establishment of the new body within UN system to strengthen women's rights and improve gender equality. In relation to that, we consider very important the office of the new body to be represented in the Balkan region in order to assist us in the further work on improvement of the status of women and achievement of gender equality in Montenegro, and in the region as well.

In conclusion, the delegation of Montenegro is looking forward to lively and fruitful discussion, and to share views and experiences aimed at achieving gender equality.

Thank you.