



**PERMANENT MISSION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

STATEMENT

by

H.E. Mrs. Ana Trišić Babić
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina

at the
United Nations Economic and Social Council
Fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status Women

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and
to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,
entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and
peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic
objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further
actions and initiatives

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PERMANENT MISSION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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Madame Chair,

1. It is a great honour for me today to address the 57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. This year's session with the priority theme "Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls" presents the issue of utmost importance for women and girls worldwide. This is also great opportunity for all of us to exchange views and thoughts on the commitments and daily efforts for the promotion and protection of human rights, especially for women and girls. We reaffirm our strong support and commitment to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and we believe that the Commission on the Status of Women should continue to play a strong role in reviewing the steps taken for its full implementation. In this regard, I would like to express my appreciation to you, Madame Chair, as well as other members of the Bureau for their commitment and hard work invested into the preparations of this important session.

2. Bosnia and Herzegovina aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of European Union.

Madame Chair,

3. Violence against women and girls is universal issue that persists in every country differing only in scope from one society to another. This presents great obstacle to promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as major impediment to achieving gender equality and empowerment of women. Such violence harms women as a human beings, erodes family and community. Even though considerable progress has been made in creating the global framework for preventing and eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls, we have to admit that on the beginning of the 21st century the world is far from ending such violence. Also, we cannot forget the root causes of violence against women, which include women's economic dependence on men, unequal access to education or social and cultural practices. Furthermore, while condemning all forms of such crime, recognizing its changing manifestations and contexts, we need to analyze why the progress in our common work is still slow.

4. The international legal and policy framework is starting point and tool for all stakeholders involved in process to end violence against women and girls. Even though there have been a very high number of countries that ratified CEDAW we hope that this process will lead towards universal ratification. Consequently, the implementation of the Convention, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, permanent work with the aim to eradicate violence against women and girls globally has to be recognized as genuine and common value serving for our future.

Madame Chair,

5. The network of institutional mechanisms for gender issues in my country entails all levels of legislative and executive powers. Speaking of the achievements on our national level, progress has been made toward the institutionalization of gender equality standards, reflected in a great number of systematic laws which contain standards that prohibit discrimination and gender based violence. Our national legislation and actions to combat violence against women are in line with international standards. In this regard, the Gender Action Plan which has been adopted contains a strategy for the promotion of gender equality in all spheres of life

and work, while at the same time important initial steps in implementation have already been made. However, this is only the starting point to tackle such issues. Spectrum of violence is broad and complex, and we are aware that our work requires particularly comprehensive approach. Hence, I strongly believe that every society can and should make additional efforts to stand up for education, protection and justice.

6. We assess cooperation of Bosnia and Herzegovina with relevant UN bodies to be constructive and on satisfactory level. This is reflected in our efforts to fulfill our obligations towards the UN Treaty Body System in the field of human rights in a timely manner. In this regard the relevant authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina have submitted, among others, as combined the fourth and fifth reports on implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, scheduled for consideration on the 55th session of the CEDAW in July this year. This combined report was compiled by the Gender Equality Agency on the basis of reports prepared by the Entity Gender Centers

7. I would like to underline that by the adoption of Action Plans for Roma in the areas of employment, housing and health care, and by previously adopted Plan of Action of the educational needs of Roma, as well as joining the Decade of Roma Social Inclusion 2005 – 2015, Bosnia and Herzegovina has committed itself to work on the problems of the Roma population, which is the largest and, by all parameters, poorest and most vulnerable minority in the country. When it comes to protecting the rights in a form of an institutional framework, Roma women actively participate as members in the work of the Roma Committee of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Committee is an advisory body of the Council of Ministers and is mandated to consider the most important issues to resolve the status of Roma in the country. Particularly distinctive was the involvement of Roma women in the design and implementation of the Action Plan for health care as well as preparing the revised Action Plan on the educational needs of Roma population. Education, as the key to overcoming Roma poverty, is necessary to ensure the social inclusion of Roma and is closely linked with employment, health care and housing. In the revised Action Plan, the role of Roma mothers is specifically emphasized in the preparation for the inclusion of Roma children in the education system.

8. Speaking on impact of armed conflict on women and girls and gender based violence in conflict, full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) is deemed as highly important and thus all necessary provisions have been incorporated into my country's Gender Action Plan. Furthermore, we emphasize the importance of the full involvement of women in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, early peace-building and post-conflict planning, as well as the need to enhance their role in decision-making processes.

9. I would also like to mention an important fact that integrating gender perspective into peacekeeping policy and advancement of participation of women in UN peacekeeping operations is fundamental for more effective performance on the ground. We spare no effort to advance this issue and in this regard I would like to inform you that relevant authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina have adopted a policy that one third of nominated candidates for peacekeeping missions must be women.

Madam Chair,

10. Much work remains to be accomplished before we and the international community will be able to achieve the various targets set by documents relating the promotion of gender equality, empowerment of women as well as violence against women. We share the same view expressed in the Report of the Secretary General that a systematic and holistic approach is required to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls, including legislative and policy measures, protection of survivors, and data collection and research. We agree that efforts have mainly been focused on responses for survivors after violence has occurred, while more work has to be done to prevent such violence. I would say that prevention should be focus of all our activities and genuine efforts. We have to work for the future, which means more work on political will, allocation of resources and accountability mechanisms in order to ensure the implementation of strategies and programs.

I wish all of us an inter-active and result-oriented 57th CSW session.

I thank you for your attention.



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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

FIFTY-SEVEN SESSION

Statement by

Ms. Zetta Makri

Secretary-General for Gender Equality

Ministry of Interior

Greece

NEW YORK
Tuesday, March 6, 2013

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Dear Chairperson,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Greece aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union

It is a great honor for me to address, on behalf of the Greek Government, the 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. I strongly believe that gender equality constitutes a fundamental human right and basic aim of every modern democracy. In addition, it constitutes a leverage for development, competitiveness and social cohesion in every country.

Women's rights must be protected and, besides the legislative framework, the struggle towards de facto equality must continue.

Today, faced with an admittedly grave financial situation, we continue on our dual approach to the promotion of gender equality. On the one hand, we design and implement specialised equality policies to promote and empower the participation of women in sectors in which they are underrepresented, and on the other, we perform cross-cutting interventions throughout the range of public policy, so as to tackle gender-based discrimination in each and every field of policy implementation.

In this time of severe unemployment, we empower women to keep their jobs by implementing a programme of actions targeting employed women, especially those whose work positions are at risk, and self-employed women, helping them develop entrepreneurial initiatives with a view to remain active in the job market.

Addressing the problem of violence against women, the priority theme of our Session, Greece has been implementing a comprehensive National Action Plan on preventing and combating violence against women. A bilingual SOS hotline, Counseling Centers, Hostels for the female victims and their children, awareness and sensitization campaigns, as well as cooperation with civil society and local stakeholders are the highlights of our National Action Plan.

In addition, Greece has been among the first countries to adhere to the initiative "Say No-Unte" by the UN WOMEN to eliminate all forms of violence against women.

To promote women's participation in public life and enhance their participation in political, social and economic decision-making, the General Secretariat for Gender Equality is implementing a wide range of actions. Women's participation in regional and local administration is being promoted through specific actions, including a relevant website, informational seminars and awareness raising initiatives.

A multilayered set of actions to promote women's participation in unions and associations of the Social Partners is also under way, aiming both to encourage women to participate in such unions and associations and to empower them to claim decision-making positions within such institutions.

As far as gender mainstreaming is concerned, we are implementing an action plan aiming to create relevant methodologies and tools, devise relevant actions in all levels of administration and evaluate them. In addition, the development of a new mechanism, an Observatory, is under way, to monitor and evaluate the implemented gender equality policies through the development of an Integrated Information System and a National System of Gender Indicators

Dear Chairperson,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Greek State places great importance on matters of gender equality, especially now, in these turbulent times of the financial crisis. With women constituting more than half of our country's population and a pool of talent, skills and knowledge, it is only fair to assume that women's equal participation in all fields of political, social and economic life is the only viable road to development.

We realize that despite the adversity presented by the harsh economic environment, we must continue and boost our efforts towards gender equality, addressing at the same time the serious problems arisen in recent years.

Thank you for your attention.