



**SLOVENIA**

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**STATEMENT  
BY**

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**under Agenda Item 28  
Advancement of Women**

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Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me first to express Slovenia's full alignment with the statement delivered by Belgium on behalf of the European Union.

Slovenia attaches great importance to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. In this respect, we would like to express our great satisfaction with the creation of **UN Women** and the appointment of Ms Michelle Bachellet as the first Under-Secretary-General to head this entity. We look forward to UN Women bridging the current gap between the UN's normative and operative work and believe that the UN Women will be the “driver to direct UN activities”, as Ms Bachellet said in one of her previous statements, and the engine to boost gender equality and empowerment of women around the world.

Let me refer to the report on the follow-up of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and acknowledge the important role of the Secretary-General in the promotion of elimination of discrimination against women. Secretary-General among others highlighted that discrimination against women in law and in practice is one of the gaps and challenges remaining in the field of human rights. Built also on this finding the UN Human Rights Council recently established a **Working Group** to deal specifically with the issue of **discrimination against women in law and in practice**. We would like to express our satisfaction with the establishment of this mandate and would like to encourage all States to fully cooperate with this newly established mechanism. In order to create a forum for the discussion on this issue, Slovenia, together with Norway, organised an international conference on equality of women and men in national legislation last May in Ljubljana.

We would like to stress that gender equality and women's empowerment are also essential to promote development. Women are powerful agents for development, yet women and girls still represent the majority of the poor. It is for this reason that empowerment of women is a cross-cutting issue in Slovene development cooperation. The High-level Summit on **Millennium Development Goals** held last month reaffirmed the importance of gender equality and the empowerment of women for achieving the MDGs. Without dedicated action in this field, the achievement of MDG3 would be endangered, and at the same time the achievement of all other goals, as women's rights, gender equality, human development and MDGs are interconnected and mutually reinforcing.

Finally, at the end of this month we will celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, in which the Security Council acknowledged the important role of women in the promotion of peace, security and prosperity. However, despite all efforts, the violence against women, in particular sexual violence, continues during an armed conflict and its aftermath. We need to do more to prevent such crimes from happening.

It is high time for all members of the international community to do their best in order to better implement Security Council Resolution 1325. At the international level, in our view, the adoption of indicators to monitor implementation of the Resolution and a consistent fight against impunity for perpetrators of these crimes are the main elements to be tackled efficiently. At the national level, due attention should be devoted to the drafting of action plans for the implementation of the Resolution 1325. Slovenia will adopt such an action plan shortly.

Mr. President,

The 15th anniversary of the Beijing Conference, the appointment of the first UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, the establishment of UN Women and the appointment of the first Under-Secretary-General for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security and, most recently, also the establishment of a special procedure within the Human Rights Council, on the elimination of discrimination against women in law and in practice, remind us that 2010 is a special year, a milestone in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

We welcome all these important developments and would like to express our hope that such a dynamic of creating mechanisms for the promotion of gender equality will also be followed by efficient implementation.

Thank you.