

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security
November 30th 2012, Security Council Chamber

Statement by Ms. Marn Permanent Mission of Slovenia to the United Nations.

I would like to thank India for organizing today's important discussion and to express special thanks to Ms. Bineta Diop for her insightful briefing.

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the observer of the European Union and welcomes the adoption of the presidential statement (S/PRST/2012/23) on 31 October. Slovenia views issues related to the promotion of the rights of women as one of the key priorities in the field of human rights.

We welcome this year's focus on the role of women's civil society organizations in contributing to the prevention and resolution of armed conflict and to peacebuilding. We consider the role of women's civil society organizations important in ensuring that the needs and rights not just of women as citizens, but also of members of all vulnerable groups, are taken into account, since women are usually represented among caregivers to the most vulnerable members of their families, communities and societies.

I would like to also welcome the Secretary-General's annual report on women and peace and security (S/2012/732) and to express my country's support for the recommendations contained therein on more solid progress throughout the women and peace and security agenda.

We fully support the need to ensure consistency in the implementation of international norms and standards on the human rights of women and girls and in efforts to prevent and resolve conflict and build peace. We commend the increased number of explicit references to women, peace and security in commitments made with respect to actions of the Security Council, including specific instructions included in mission mandates on promoting women's rights, their protection and empowerment and support for the development of civil society. We therefore encourage the Council to consistently continue that practice in order to ensure that all country-specific and thematic decisions in terms of the establishment or renewal of mission mandates include such provisions.

Let me highlight the importance of addressing the challenges to women's and girls' participation and representation. We welcome the increased number of women on the roster of mediation experts and among the Secretary-General's Special Representatives and Deputy Representatives. We consider that in some situations, women mediators or representatives facilitate interactions with local women and civil society organizations. We also consider that investing in education for girls is of key importance to assure them the prominent role they deserve in their communities and societies in the future.

There are many persistent obstacles to women's participation and representation in public decision-making processes. An important one is the lack of security. Sexual violence and other forms of gender-based violence, as well as a lack of accountability and, consequently, impunity for such acts impede women from actively engaging in public life and decision-making. It is therefore important to ensure gender-responsiveness in transitional justice mechanisms.

In conclusion, allow me please to shortly brief the Council on the implementation of Slovenia's national action plan to implement the resolutions on women and peace and security adopted two years ago. Slovenia is preparing its first report in accordance with the action plan to review the progress on implementation since its adoption. We have continued to contribute to the implementation of resolutions on women and peace and security in international and regional organizations at various levels. During the period under consideration, Slovenia actively contributed to promoting the implementation of the resolutions in the Western Balkans by contributing to the development of some of the national action plans in the region.

As the promotion of gender equality and women's rights in conflict and post-conflict situations has also been high on Slovenia's foreign policy agenda, we have strengthened efforts to promote women's rights in general and in specific country situations, especially in the framework of the United Nations Human Rights Council and its various mechanisms, including the universal periodic review.

The promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls was raised also by Slovene high-level representatives in various international forums. Slovenia has made progress in training civilian and military personnel to be deployed to

international operations and missions on issues regarding women, peace and security. In the past two years, the participation of policewomen in training programmes of international missions increased immensely.