



## PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

### STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO UN SECRETARY GENERAL BAN KI-MOON

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile  
to the Permanent Council  
Vienna, 4th November 2014

Mr Chairman,

The cooperation between the UN and the OSCE is an important issue for Norway and we are grateful for this opportunity to discuss it directly with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

We particularly appreciate the cooperation on Human Rights Monitoring in Ukraine. The regular reports from the UN are of great value to our work in the OSCE. Norway condemns all human rights violations by any party. This includes in Crimea, where the rights of minorities, as Crimean Tartars and Ukrainian nationals, are threatened and violated by the Russian occupying forces.

We also welcome the UN's generosity in sharing its practical knowledge with the OSCE and the Special Monitoring Mission on everything from logistical support questions to the use of UAVs. This generosity has made the OSCE able to act more timely and more effectively.

Mr Chairman,

Let me add, on a more personal note, as Chair of the OSCE Human Dimension Committee, that I appreciate the good cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights in our work this year. We have had several UN Special Rapporteurs addressing the committee.

Mr Chairman,

Regional organisations as the OSCE can contribute to the realization of UN goals. One area where the OSCE is particularly well positioned is women, peace and security. Women are among the most vulnerable in times of armed conflict, humanitarian crises and displacement, and our assistance must be gender sensitive.

However, women are not only victims, but also actors and agents of change. We therefore need the participation of both women and men in formal as well as informal processes, in mediation, peace negotiations, humanitarian and peace building efforts. The participation of women will ensure that a broader range of interests is taken into account and give greater legitimacy to conflict-resolution efforts.

A case in point is certainly the crisis in Ukraine, where women should be more actively engaged in political processes and decision-making at central and regional level.

In closing, let me reiterate Norway's firm commitment to continue contributing to the work of the UN on strengthening human rights, rule of law, peace and security, in the OSCE area and globally.

I thank you, Mr Chairman.