

Canadian Delegation to the
Organization for Security & Cooperation
in Europe



Délégation du Canada auprès de
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération
en Europe

**JOINT INTERVENTION BY THE OSCE DELEGATIONS OF
CANADA, LIECHTENSTEIN, NORWAY AND SWITZERLAND
DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR FREDERICKA GREGORY
ON THE PRESENTATION BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
ANNUAL REPORT ON THE 2004 OSCE ACTION PLAN FOR THE
PROMOTION OF GENDER EQUALITY AND ON THE PRESENTATION OF
A REPORT BY THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE FOR GENDER ISSUES
927TH MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
25 OCTOBER 2012**

Mr. Chairperson,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and Canada.

We would like to thank the Secretary General for his thorough presentation of the Annual Evaluation Report on the implementation of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality. Our thanks also go to Ms. June Zeitlin, the CiO Special Representative on Gender Issues, for her report and for her leadership on this file.

We welcome the progress achieved in increasing the number of women at the Head of OSCE Missions. However, we were disappointed to learn from the Annual Evaluation Report that no progress has been made in the percentage of women employed in senior management positions. In particular, the level of recruitment of women in areas pertaining to the first dimension remains disappointingly low. While we welcome the progress made in terms of an increased number of projects and programmes which include a gender perspective, we have noticed that in the first and second dimension the number of targeted projects remains comparatively low. The OSCE should be leading, when it comes to addressing the challenges still faced by women and girls that are inhibiting their ability to enjoy their full rights and realize their full potential in our societies.

We all must strive to do better –both participating States and the OSCE executive structures– in reducing the persistent barriers to women’s empowerment and gender equality, in all facets of our regional security and stability work. For this reason, we applaud the sharper gender focus in all aspects of the OSCE’s conflict cycle work, as mandated by Ministers at the OSCE Ministerial Council in Vilnius last year. We particularly applaud the successful roundtable on enhancing the role of women in conflict mediation that took place last Monday. And we also encourage continued priority attention towards advancing the OSCE’s full implementation of its mandate

under UNSC 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. Women amount to half of the Security community and their equal participation in maintaining peace and security and their protection needs in conflict settings must be taken into account. In the roundtable discussion on women in conflict mediation, it was once again made clear that women are major stakeholders in peace processes and that they have to be included in transformations and solutions that shape and affect society. Our countries believe that our work on 1325 can and should be among the deliverables we adopt at the Dublin Ministerial Council at year's end, so you can count on our support. We also would welcome an update of the Gender Equality Plan of 2004, in order to adapt it to today's challenges.

In closing, we wish to thank the Irish 2012 OSCE Chairmanship for giving Gender Issues such priority this year. We still have some way to go on reaching Gender Equality within the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian region, but by fully implementing and updating our OSCE Gender Equality Action Plan, we are making steady progress. We are confident the Dublin Ministerial will further contribute to achieving this goal.

Merci/Thank you