



**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR ISABELLE POUPART
IN RESPONSE TO THE REPORT BY SECRETARY GENERAL
ON GENDER ACTION PLAN
974TH MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
28 NOVEMBER 2013**

Mr. Chairperson,

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

We would like to thank the Secretary General for his presentation of the Annual Evaluation Report on the implementation of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality.

The report demonstrates clearly that, although we continue to make steady progress on the issue, the promotion of equality between men and women must remain a priority in all aspects of our work, both across our Organization and within each participating State.

We would particularly highlight the fact that women are holding this year the highest proportion ever of senior management positions in the Organization (1/3). We welcome this trend and hope it will continue. Indeed, we hope that Secretary General Zannier will not mind if I say that we look forward to the day when our Organization is led by a Madam Secretary General.

We note the continued existence of structural imbalances among the various parts of the OSCE. Our Organization and its participating States should do more to increase the representation of women in fields that have been traditionally male-dominated, such as those in the First Dimension.

OSCE policies, programmes, projects and activities should fully take into account the Gender Action Plan. In this connection, we welcome the support the Gender Section offers to Field Operations in addressing areas where progress has been lacking through concrete measures across the entire project cycle.

We also agree that participating States should give serious consideration to and take follow-up action on the recommendations to remedy the lack of baseline data or indicators, which would allow for a more systematic and effective assessment of the implementation of the Action Plan.

With next year marking the tenth anniversary of the Action Plan, the time is right to take stock and align our efforts to ensure that they fully contribute to achieving comprehensive security. The OSCE should be leading when it comes to addressing the challenges that are limiting the ability of women and girls to fully enjoy their rights and truly realize their potential.

In this regard, we encourage continued priority attention towards advancing the full implementation of the relevant UN Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security within the OSCE context.

Thank you.