



Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Sweden

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw

Working session 4: Tolerance and non-discrimination I, including equality of opportunity for women and men; implementation of the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality; role of women in conflict prevention and crisis management; prevention of violence against women, 4 October 2006

Speech by Deputy Director Cecilia Romson Örnberg

Mr. Chairman/Madame Chair,

I thank you for the opportunity to speak on a topic that remains high on the agenda: the role of women in society, women's full enjoyment of human rights, and in particular the role of women in conflict prevention and crisis management.

The OSCE is in great need of gender-balanced representation in its structures and field missions. We especially need more women in leading positions. They do not only serve as role models, they also contribute with know how, experience, strengthened legitimacy and increase the possibilities to reach out to the whole population in the host country instead of just half. Now, the main challenge is to turn insights into concrete actions.

Six years have now passed since the adoption of the UNSCR 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security. All of us need to switch to a higher gear to speed up its implementation. On a national basis, Sweden has developed this year an action plan for a more systematic, effective and coordinated implementation of the resolution.

Looking at the OSCE, Sweden believes that the main task and responsibility for the organization is now to implement. This may not appear to as exciting as formulating decisions or action plans, but it is nevertheless tantamount to the success of gender mainstreaming throughout the OSCE area and for the achievement of good and sustainable results. The MC-decision no 14/05 on Women in Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation from last year, stipulates a wide ranging list of measures and actions for the participating States and all OSCE structures.

All of us need to examine what consequences this decision ought to have. For instance:

- Nomination: We simply have to do better. The rate and percentage of women nominated to key positions in the OSCE is simply not good enough.
- Recruitment and appointments: The participating States must, together with the OSCE Secretariat, develop measures to substantially increase the number of women in the OSCE Secretariat, institutions and field operations, in particular at senior and policy-making levels.
- Training: How to apply gender mainstreaming in practice requires an understanding of the issues involved and how the promotion of gender equality improves effectiveness and quality of operations. It also requires a thorough analysis of the operation as well as a willingness to change perspective.
- Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all three OSCE dimensions.

Mr. Chairman/ Madame Chair,

Sweden believes that the OSCE recently has made some important steps in the right direction. Looking back at the last year, the OSCE has agreed on a special decision on the role of women in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. The organization has also undertaken some training and further awareness raising actions.

In order to further promote the understanding of gender mainstreaming, Sweden intends to contribute by offering a training opportunity to OSCE Heads of Missions. This will be done at next year's Head of Missions Meeting in Vienna, and this will be done in co-operation with the OSCE Secretariat and with the full support of the incoming Spanish chair.

Sweden believes that none of us should feel that we have done enough. We are on the right path, but looking at this organization and its enormous potential, it is evident that more can be done, both by the participating States and by the OSCE structures and institutions. A better understanding of the real implications of gender mainstreaming is needed. We also need to see it being transformed into reality. Until we see at least some women in leading positions, such as head of missions and institutions within the OSCE, we still have a great deal of work to do.

I thank you.