



**PERMANENT MISSION OF SLOVENIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**Statement by H.E. Simona Leskovar, State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign
Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia
United Nations Security Council open debate on Women, Peace and Security, New
York, 25 October 2018**

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, Slovenia fully aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the EU. Let me commend Bolivia for organizing today's debate to highlight the role of women in peace and security. I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his annual report and express our appreciation for his commitment to the women, peace and security agenda.

Meaningful participation of women in prevention, conflict resolution and peace processes is enabled through their effective political and economic empowerment, their access to resources and the realization and exercise of their fundamental rights.

Their voices in the parliament, government, military, business and civil society lend credibility and sustainability to the measures that address security concerns at all levels. We concur on the need for improved data and measurements for monitoring trends and progress in relevant areas.

Mr/Mme Chairperson,

Obstacles to women's political and economic participation contribute to prolonged insecurity and threaten solutions for sustainable peace. Sexual and gender-based violence continues to represent one such obstacle, and we must do more to hold perpetrators accountable. With regard to accountability, let me reiterate Slovenia's

strong support to the ICC, and the work done in previous years by ICTY, ICTR and the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

I would also like to stress the need for an active role of men in promoting the women, peace and security agenda – both with regard to the prevention and elimination of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence, and by promoting meaningful participation of women in peace efforts.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me inform you briefly on our national efforts:

Slovenia's Second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security for the period 2018-2020 will be adopted by the Government in the upcoming weeks. The new Action Plan is based on review of the implementation of the first Action Plan and takes into account emerging challenges and trends. It encompasses activities in 5 thematic areas: (1) integration of gender perspective, (2) women's participation, (3) protection of women and girls and ending sexual and gender-based violence in conflict, (4) education, training and awareness-raising on women, peace and security, and (5) accountability for conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence. The plan includes a monitoring and reporting mechanism, and we believe that it will improve our results in terms of the women, peace and security agenda.

We are also working on a new Directive of Slovene Armed Forces on the implementation of the UN SCR 1325.

We have defined gender equality as one of thematic priorities and cross-cutting issues in our international development cooperation and humanitarian assistance, and are supporting projects on the empowerment of women in the Western Balkans, Lebanon, Jordan, Uganda and Rwanda. These contribute to women's resilience by encouraging



**PERMANENT MISSION OF SLOVENIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

awareness raising, education and employment, balanced representation, and the promotion of economic and psychosocial empowerment.

Given the importance that my Government attaches to the women, peace and security agenda, we have decided to dedicate a part of Slovenia's biggest foreign policy event – Bled Strategic Forum - in 2019 to mark the 40 anniversary of the CEDAW Convention and the 20 anniversary of the UN SC Resolution 1325.

Mr/Mme Chairperson,

We welcome the efforts of the Security Council's Informal Expert Group on Women, Peace and Security to stress coordinated and specific country-level action and join others in encouraging the Security Council to pay due regard to the Group's work in the Council's deliberations and outcomes.

In conclusion, Slovenia remains firmly committed to the women, peace and security agenda and the comprehensive approach in its implementation.

Thank you.

