



SLOVENIA

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**Statement by Ambassador Darja Bavdaž Kuret,
Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations
at the Security Council Open Debate on**

"Women, Peace and Security"

New York, 27 October 2017

Mr. President,

Let me begin by sincerely thanking France for organizing this annual open debate and the Secretary-General for his annual report.

Slovenia aligns itself with the statements delivered by the EU and by the Human Security Network and would like to make some additional remarks in the national capacity.

The review of Slovenia's first National Action Plan showed our contribution to the implementation of this Council's resolutions on women, peace and security at different levels, especially in international and regional organizations and by participating in international operations and missions. We have also helped to promote the implementation of these resolutions in the region of the Western Balkans.

More than 20 projects have been carried out in cooperation with civil society to empower women in Africa, Middle East and Afghanistan. Since we believe that it is imperative to eliminate barriers to gender equality and to ensure meaningful participation of women, we are continuing to support different projects in this regard., including by contributing funds to support NATO's Policy and Action Plan on resolution 1325. We have, for example, requested that our 2017 financial contribution of 500.000 EUR for the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces (ANDSF) be used for the projects focused on the advancement of the female members of the Aghani forces.

On the national level important achievements have been reached in the education and training on women, peace and security, which were systematically introduced throughout the Slovene Armed Forces. In 2015 a permanent position of gender adviser in the General Staff of the Slovene Armed Forces was established as well as a network of gender advisers. We are happy to report that in 2016 almost 10 per cent of military staff and more than a fifth of Police personnel deployed to international operations and missions were women. Moreover, this spring Slovenia

gladly answered to the UN call to appoint women in command positions by contributing the first woman contingent commander to the UNFIL.

But the events in the international community also demand activities outside the action plan. In this regard Slovenia gained important experience in integrating gender perspective into management of migration movements and shared its knowledge in the region.

Mr President,

Cooperation and partnership of different stakeholders are crucial for realisation of this agenda on the ground. Therefore we gladly participate in different networks, such as the Global Network of the National Focal Points for Women, Peace and Security and the just established Mediterranean Women Mediators Network, that each in their own way contribute to this goal.

As we speak of women's equal and meaningful participation and leadership in peace-related activities, let me add that the political participation of women in Slovenia is very good, half the government being women, including both defense and interior minister. But I wish to add that integration of gender perspective in peace and security is not women's issue – it concerns men too.

Let me conclude on a note that we should also encourage men's participation and leadership in the promotion of gender equality. We commend the Secretary-General's action in both regards.

Thank you.