Statement by Ambassador Andrej Logar,
Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations
at the Security Council Open Debate on
"Women and Peace and Security"
25 October 2016
also on behalf of the members of the
Human Security Network

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the members of the Human Security Network, a cross-regional Network composed of Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, Norway, Panama, Switzerland, Thailand, South Africa as an observer and my own country, Slovenia. The Human Security Network is an informal group of States that promotes the integration of the human security approach into the policies and programmes at international, regional and national levels.

We welcome this important and timely debate. One year ago in this very chamber we, the member states, reaffirmed commitments to further realize the Women, Peace and Security agenda and with the adoption of the Resolution 2242 this Council once again reaffirmed the importance of the agenda.

One of the crucial elements of the Women, Peace and Security agenda is the involvement of women in peace related activities. We see that today more women are involved in peace talks; more peace agreements include provisions that relate to the specific needs of women and girls, including supporting their human rights, as the 2016 report of the Secretary General on women, peace and security highlights. The Network supports the Secretary General's call that initiatives to promote women’s participation and inclusive consultations should become standard practice in the mediation of peace agreements. Their important role as active agents of change in the promotion and maintenance of peace and security in all phases of conflict resolution and peace building is invaluable, not just for women, but for all (members of society).

But despite the progress made and the recognition that the Women, Peace and Security agenda is critical for conflict prevention and effective responses to complex crises and that women are important agents of progress in peace talks, they remain unequally involved in these processes, particularly the political dimensions. The positive role that women play in all stages of conflict prevention and resolution is often underestimated or even ignored instead of being recognized and utilized.
The Network calls upon member states, UN entities, regional and sub-regional organizations to support member states in their efforts to implement resolution 1325 and all subsequent resolutions including 2242. We call for greater recognition of and support for women's participation in all stages of conflict resolution and post-conflict reconciliation processes, so that peace agreements can be more attainable and sustainable.

The Network expresses its profound concern regarding the impact of the unprecedented wave of forced displacement on women and girls. In this regard, it calls for the engagement of women in the design and implementation of humanitarian action and early recovery, taking into account the increasing needs for sustained donor support to host countries and communities to appropriately support women's self-reliance and resilience and to ensure a strengthened humanitarian-development nexus and improve coordination with peacebuilding and human rights efforts.

We also call for greater efforts to promote and respect the human rights of women and girls, as well as to strengthen all efforts to effectively address gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence. For too long sexual violence against women and girls has been committed on a systematic and widespread scale as crimes against humanity or has been used as a weapon of war. At an alarming rate women and girls are today targets of sexual and gender based violence.

We stress the importance of fighting impunity and ensuring accountability under national or international jurisdictions. Perpetrators of such crimes must be brought to justice. Immediate actions should be taken to end impunity and to prosecute and punish those responsible for grave violation of human rights including crimes against women and girls in armed conflict. As a group of countries promoting human security, the Human Security Network would like to emphasize that personal security of women is essential for human security.

Women’s empowerment and participation are a cornerstone of any prevention and protection response. Economic, political and social empowerment of women and girls reduces their vulnerability and enhances their ability to protect themselves and exercise their rights. In this regard, we need to ensure that women's and girls’ interests are fully respected and systematically integrated in the context of peace processes. As such, strategies for effective integration of gender perspective should be pursued to promote women’s empowerment and participation.

Mr. President,

Allow me to make few additional remarks in my national capacity. Slovenia also aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and the statement delivered by Liechtenstein on behalf of Slovenia, Austria and Switzerland.

As reiterated many times, after last year's review it is high time to begin showing tangible results and bring women, peace and security agenda closer to women that can make a difference. All stakeholders have to cooperate and harmonize their efforts in order to avoid duplication on one hand and gaps on the other hand.

Slovenia pays particular attention to education and training on women, peace and security also in our national forces. It is important that everyone involved in peace and security processes is aware of the advantages women can bring by participating in peace-related activities.

Our own experience confirms that higher number of female members of Slovene Armed Forces in crisis management processes and peacekeeping missions ensures better quality of brokerage, mediation and particularly contacts with socially underprivileged groups in crisis areas and local women.

Awareness raising and education on comprehensive implementation of women, peace and security agenda has been integrated into different educational programmes and has become a component of the training system of Slovene Armed Forces.

Slovenia agrees with the Secretary General's report that prioritizing gender equality and women's empowerment in peace and security settings must remain a continued effort. We all must strive to remove obstacles for women's participation in particular in efforts to prevent and compact sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices that impede women to enjoy the human rights on an equal footing.

Mr. President,

Let me conclude by stressing that the continuous support and engagement of the Council is crucial for the .

Thank you,