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Statement by Ambassador Andrej Logar,
Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations
at the
61. session of the Commission on the Status of Women
13 March 2017
on behalf of
HUMAN SECURITY NETWORK

Mr. President

I have the honour 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 advocates for the greater usage of the human security approach in policies and programs at the international, regional and national levels.

As in previous years, we would like to highlight the strong interlinkage between the human security approach and our common goal to achieve de facto equality between women and men. Gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls are an integral part of the Agenda 2030, critical for achieving all its goals and targets.
The Human Security Approach is people-centered and comprehensive. This means that we should look at all aspects of security in order to achieve freedom from fear, freedom from want and freedom to live in dignity. However, massive challenges to all three of these freedoms remain for women and men.

In order to achieve freedom from fear efforts to implement zero tolerance policies and to prevent all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, an issue that remains endemic in all regions of the world, need to be stepped up. This is only possible if all actors work together, particularly governments, international organisations and civil society.

This year’s priority theme “Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work” is of particular relevance in order to ensure freedom from want. This is only possible if we intensify our efforts to ensure equal pay for equal work and for work of equal value and by empowering women as active participants and leaders on the labour market. Equality also means that we need to ensure that women not only have access to work, but access to decent work. Managing to do so will not only benefit women, but our entire societies will receive a dividend and economies will become more competitive.

The Human Security Network shares the Secretary General's assessment that women’s economic empowerment and the realization of women’s rights to and at work are essential for the achievement of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action as well as to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development and in order to effectively leave no one behind.

For women in conflict and post-conflict situations, including refugee women and women faced with forced displacement, these goals are even more critical. Women’s empowerment and participation are a cornerstone of any prevention and protection response. The positive role women can play in the economic revitalization of fragile communities in particular, makes a strong point for including the economic empowerment of women in national action plans also under the women peace and security agenda.

We should hence continue to apply a human rights based approach in our work for gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, including strong provisions to combat all forms of discrimination in the changing world of work. Only such a human rights based approach will allow us to make progress towards ensuring that all women and girls can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality.
Finally, Mr. President, with regards to the emerging issue of this year’s Commission on the Status of Women, on the empowerment of indigenous women and also bearing in mind the 10th anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, we recognize the importance of including the strengthening of economic activities of rural and indigenous women and their organizations in development and poverty eradication policies, strategies and programs, with their full participation and consultation that enable free and informed consent, thus enhancing the respect and protection of their traditional and ancestral knowledge and also their empowerment, autonomy and development.

Thank you, Mr. President.