

STATEMENT

by

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia

Beijing+20 Regional Review Meeting

6-7 November

Friday, 7 November

Item 8

Governance and gender justice

Mr./Ms. Moderator

The Republic of Armenia adopted legislation and several strategic documents to promote gender equality in all spheres of economic, social and political life. The principle of equality is widely reflected in the Armenian legislation. Country's civil legislation is based on equality and guarantees implementation of full range of civil and political rights.

In recent years, a set of the governmental programs and documents generating a policy in the field of gender equality was adopted. All these programmes, in particular Gender Policy Strategic Action Plan (2011-2015) and Gender Policy Concept Paper and Strategic Action Plan to Combat Gender-based violence (2011-2015), are the basic components of the national anti-discrimination policy. The adoption and further implementation of these national strategies is a targeted, whereby one Program of Actions is followed by the next one, containing detailed plans for each year. Most recently, the Law on Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Women and Men was adopted by the National Assembly.

The Gender Policy Concept Paper adopted in 2010 formulates country's general policy in the field of gender equality. The Concept Paper, in particular, aims to create favorable conditions to foster "equal enjoyment of rights and opportunities by men and women in economic, social and political life" The promotion of gender equality, according to the document, has the objective of achieving "sustainable development, improvement of democratic processes and organization of vital social activities on the bases of true equality, solidarity, cooperation and tolerance for all social groups, as well as efficient use of human potential and raising the quality of life. It focuses on improving gender outcomes in six areas: participation in decision-making and management positions; socio-economic sector, education; health; culture and public information; and gender-based violence and human trafficking. The document identifies some measures for operationalization common to all areas, which fall within five broad categories.

The Decision "On the procedure for monitoring the state policy programs on ensuring gender equality and for information exchange" was submitted for the approval of the Government of the

Republic of Armenia with a view to ensuring the comprehensive accountability of the Government in the process of achieving gender equality.

Key international documents and standards in the field of protection of women's rights became a guideline for further action in this field. The Beijing Declaration and Programme of Action provides a clear mandate for the national human rights machinery for the advancement of women. One of the principal goals of this human rights system is to promote and achieve gender equality and ensure full enjoyment of women's rights. The national human rights system's main function should include monitoring the effective implementation of national legislation based on the principle of non-discrimination and equality, as well incorporation of international obligations assumed by the State in this field into national policies and agendas.

At present the draft decision of the Prime Minister of Armenia on the establishment of National mechanism on equal rights and opportunities is under preparation. The national machinery's main function should include monitoring the effective implementation of national legislation based on the principle of non-discrimination and equality, as well as incorporation of international obligations assumed by the States in this field into national policies and agendas. Among the necessary conditions for an effective functioning of such machinery is the work of permanent Secretariat. Taking this into consideration the new Mechanism will have appropriate staff. We are confident that under the current leadership and the increased attention to gender issues in general in the country, combined with strong commitment of the government and political will to implement and support international norms in gender equality, this body would become an important tool for promotion and protection of women's rights and their full enjoyment.