



CEDAW 58th session - Half-Day General Discussion on girls'/women's right to education

**7 July 2014
Intervention by Slovenia**

Madam Chairperson,

Slovenia welcomes today's opportunity to discuss the right of girls and women to education with the members of the CEDAW Committee and with partners.

We appreciate the fact that the CEDAW Committee is planning to elaborate a general recommendation on girls' and women's right to education. Although the article 10 of the CEDAW Convention is reasonably straightforward, we consider that greater focus and some additional guidance by the Committee on this specific right will be welcome in states endeavours to reach all commitments (with regard to the right to education, in particular for girls and women).

We consider the timing of the elaboration of the general recommendation right also due to the unacceptable attacks on the right to education, such as the abduction of school girls in Nigeria by Boko Haram, which we condemn in strongest terms.

We consider education, including human rights education, as a basis for full development of the human personality, empowerment, equality, tolerance, peace, security and the promotion of development, advancement of society and human rights. Human rights education and training in fact importantly contributes to the promotion, protection and effective realization of all human rights. We encourage the Committee to consider the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training in its drafting of the general recommendation and in its deliberations.

Even though women and girls in Slovenia are relatively more successful in education and are in general more educated than men, women often face challenges in overcoming of stereotypes regarding the choice of education and professional career. Furthermore they face greater gender-based discrimination in finding employment and in nomination for leading or decision-making positions. Equally important, when employed, gender pay gap is in some cases still existent, although relatively low in Slovenia.

In this regard we would like to encourage the Committee to include in its deliberations (when elaborating the general recommendation of the right to education) also the aspect of ensuring equal opportunities for women in the labour market.

To conclude we would like to inform about our activities to overcome those mentioned remaining obstacles.

The ongoing project "Girls' Day" provides basic school girls in Slovenia with an insight into typically male professions, encouraging them to enrol in secondary schools attended predominantly by boys. In 2012, also other activities were implemented to encourage young people, particularly girls, to take up natural or technical science courses in calls for applications to promote sciences.

Furthermore, with the intention to give female students an opportunity to familiarise themselves with politics, political life and active participation, a project called a "Mentoring Day with a Female Politician" in cooperation with the Government, the National Assembly and several universities was organised in 2011.

We hope that the Committee and partners will find our short input useful in drafting of the general recommendation as well as in other endeavours.

Thank you.