

**Statement by
Trilateral (Austria, Croatia and Slovenia)
at the 39th session**

**Annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective throughout the work of the
Human Rights Council and that of its mechanisms**

***Theme: Gender integration and human rights investigations: strengthening a victim-
centred approach***

Geneva, 24 September 2018

Delivered by Austria on behalf of a group of countries

Mr. President,

I have the honour to read this statement on behalf of Croatia, Slovenia and my own country Austria. We fully align ourselves with the EU statement. We would like to thank you for organizing this debate and the panelists for their valuable contributions.

Security, human rights, dignity, equality, democracy, peace and sustainable development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. All the panelists have stressed: Ensuring the rights to remedy and reparation for sexual and gender based violence during conflicts is crucial for any successful reconstruction processes and ultimately for building sustainable peace.

Post-conflict situations and reforms can be viewed as an opportunity for transformation of the societal structures and norms in place before the conflict. But although transitional justice processes are intended to help heal and restore society after conflict, marginalized groups often struggle to make their voices heard.

These groups include those who have been displaced by conflict and, within that category, those who have specifically faced gender-based violence and injustice within the trajectory of displacement.

Distinguished panelists,

What are the specific challenges you encountered in your work when documenting sexual and gender-based human rights violations experienced by internally displaced persons? What specific actions need to be taken to protect internally displaced persons during the process of collecting evidence? And finally, how can a victim-centred approach to human rights investigations, by acknowledging the different experiences of women, men, girls, boys and marginalized groups, contribute to achieving sustainable solutions for internally displaced persons?

Thank you Mr. President.