



Statement by
the Republic of Slovenia
at the
41st Session of the UN Human Rights Council
Annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women
Panel 2: The rights of older women and their economic empowerment

Geneva, 28 June 2019

Mme Vice President,
Distinguished Panellists,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the EU and the Group of Friends of Human Rights of Older Persons.

We thank the panellists for their interesting and informative presentations. This discussion is very timely, not only with a view to ensure that everyone – regardless of their gender or age – can fully enjoy their human rights but also with a view to inform future decisions on how to tackle challenges of ageing global population.

Ensuring economic empowerment of women remains a global challenge. Lack of access to economic resources affects many women of all ages. This is a loss not only to them but to societies as whole. By tapping the economic potential of women whole societies gain not only through increased productivity and economic growth but also through increasing equality in economic life.

Slovenia pays attention to economic empowerment of all women, both on national and international level. Equal economic opportunities of women and men are reflected in several key main focus areas of national programme for equal opportunities of women and men 2012 – 2020. These include measures to reduce segregation in labour market, measures to promote better work-life balance and efforts to overcome obstacles to equal participation in decision-making.

Slovenia supports projects for economic empowerment of women in Western Balkans as well as in some African states through its official development assistance. Currently, eight such projects are underway.

Mme Vice President,

In Slovenia, women and men enjoy relatively high level of gender equality. Slovenian women are well included in economic activities. It is worth noting that the gender pay gap is at 8.1% among the lowest in the EU. On the other hand, the gender gap in pensions is 22%. This indicates that older women in Slovenia are facing one of the highest poverty risks in the EU.

We are trying to respond to this worrisome data with a special project “My Work. My Pension.” The project that is carried out by the lien ministry and national pension agency aims to raise awareness about the gender gap in pensions and to develop more responsive policies to lower this gap respectively.

We would appreciate any (additional) views from the panel on how can be the pay gap in pensions further reduced in the upcoming years and decades.

Thank you!