36ème session du Conseil des droits de l’homme

**Discussion annuelle sur l’intégration d’une perspective de genre dans les travaux du Conseil des droits de l’homme et ceux de ses mécanismes**

Genève, le 15 septembre 2017

Déclaration de la Suisse, du Lichtenstein, de l’Autriche et de la Slovénie

Mister President,

On behalf of Austria, Liechtenstein, Slovenia, and our own country, Switzerland, we would like to thank the panelists for their interventions.

We seize this opportunity to reiterate our firm conviction that the 2030 Agenda is fully grounded in the respect for international human rights. Implementing SDGs can only be achieved through measures respecting, promoting or realizing human rights. Therefore, UN human rights mechanisms play a key role in ensuring a human rights-based approach in achieving Goal 5 and the other gender-sensitive goals and targets of the Agenda. The recommendations generated through the UPR process are hence an essential vehicle for the development of strategies, policies and actions aiming at achieving the SDGs.

It is widely recognized that gender equality and the empowerment of women are critical factors for sustainable development and economic growth, as well as to build inclusive and peaceful societies. Therefore, we encourage States to widen the spectrum of recommendations issued during the UPR to cover areas that delegations have not sufficiently referred to in the past, but are very relevant from a gender perspective: women's rights and gender equality should, for instance, be addressed more frequently in contexts such as the prevention of violent extremism, migration, climate change, food security, and health, especially sexual and reproductive health.

Mister President,

We would like to recall that **the civil society**, in particular organizations active in the promotion of women's rights and women human rights defenders, are key actors of change at local, national and international levels. Under the UPR, we firmly believe that an open, inclusive and transparent civil society engagement contributes to the development of targeted and relevant recommendations as well as to their effective monitoring and implementation.

We therefore remain concerned about reprisals against such organizations and individuals and would like to ask the panelists the following question: **what, in their opinion, could be done to ensure their protection and strengthen their role in the UPR?**

We thank you, Mister President.