

60th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

Wednesday, 16 March, from 10:00am - 12:00pm, Conference Room 4

High Level interactive dialogue among Ministers: Building alliances for gender responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Intervention by Rosa Logar

Distinguished Delegates,

I would first like to thank you for inviting Women against Violence Europe – WAVE, to this interactive dialogue. It is in the true spirit of the United Nations, of democracy, human rights, peace and international cooperation, that Ministers engage in a global dialogue with civil society.

WAVE is a European network founded in 1994 in the course of the global campaign for women's human rights, and the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. The WAVE Network comprises active and engaged members in 46 countries in Europe, including Eastern Europe; several of our members are here today. Our main aim is to contribute to gender equality and the elimination of violence against women and girls by engaging in prevention activities and the provision of specialised support to survivors.

I would like to give you an example of how our members work on the national level together with advocates for the gender-responsive implementation of the Agenda 2030.

In Austria, the state unemployment office has established gender focal points in each of the country's nine regions, with very committed and competent staff, that aim at empowering women. Among many activities, they provide specialist support to migrant and refugee women, and women who have experienced gender-based violence. The unemployment office liaises with women's shelters and centres providing help to survivors of violence. The two organisations together provide a holistic approach to supporting women, addressing the issues of unemployment, poverty and gender-based violence simultaneously.

There are many examples of effective cooperation of women's NGOs and state governments in Europe and globally; **but allow me also to raise some important concerns:**

There remains a concerning gap in the provision of specialist women's support services for victims of violence in Europe; women's shelters and women's centres are missing and many women have no access to adequate support.

This spring, the WAVE Network will launch a two-year campaign, calling on European governments to step up their efforts to provide adequate support to all women victims of violence and their children.

There is a need to considerably increase financial investment in these services on order to be successful in our goal of eliminating violence against women. Can we afford it? We can, as violence against women in itself costs a lot to our societies, and this we have heard from many of our speakers present today.

As I reach the end of my intervention, I wish to quote UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon who said: "The world is over-armed and peace is under-funded."

What could be done with the money we are currently investing in arms and other military expenditures?

Here, I would like to quote some of the figures highlighted by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) in one of its publications:

In 2013, total global military expenditures were estimated at around 1.7 trillion USD.

What could be financed with this money?

Over 650 years of the UN's regular budget

Over 6,300 years of the work of UN Women

Let me end with the plea, distinguished Delegates, to step up our efforts, and increase the financial investment in gender equality and peace, including the right for all women and girls to live free from gender-based violence. Thank you.