



Statement by  
**Trilateral Group**  
**(Austria, Croatia, Slovenia)**  
at the  
**45<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

**Annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective throughout the work of the  
Human Rights Council and that of its mechanisms**  
**Theme: Gender-responsive initiatives to accelerate gender equality**

*Geneva, 28 September 2020*

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Thank you Madame President.

I deliver this statement on behalf of Austria, Croatia and Slovenia.

We thank the Panelists for their presentations. We are grateful to the co-sponsors of this panel for giving us the opportunity to further deepen our understanding of the complex issue of intersectionality.

25 years ago, at the eve of the World Conference on Women, 230 women and 10 men representing civil society from 42 countries from all over the world took a train from Helsinki to Beijing.

During their three-week-long travel they prepared for the conference and discussed their respective priorities. Trying to reach a common goal, they quickly discovered that their criteria for what would make a successful outcome of Beijing were very different, depending on whether they came from the global north or the global south, whether they came from an indigenous community, represented a minority group, came from a rural or urban area, their socioeconomic background, their age, beliefs and other factors.

The so called "peace train" is symbolic for what intersectionality means, and why it is such an important tool to realize the full enjoyment of human rights by all women and girls. Intersectionality embraces the idea of "all of who I am." It reaffirms what was universally acknowledged by the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action - that human rights are tied to the individual, without distinction of any kind.

Distinguished Panelists,

An intersectional approach is a powerful tool to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights by everyone. Could you give us some examples of topics the Human Rights Council deals with that would especially profit from an intersectional approach? How would one apply an intersectional perspective to issues such as safe drinking water, clean environment or safety of journalists?