



Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2016

Working Session 7:

Humanitarian issues and others commitments

Warsaw, 22 September 2016

Declaration of the Swiss Delegation

Mister Moderator,

Switzerland would like to thank both introducers for their thought-provoking addresses today. Switzerland highly appreciates Ambassador Jarbussynova and her office's hard work to combat human trafficking in the OSCE area and is very pleased with the excellent cooperation we enjoy with the office. We look forward to continuing to closely work together in the future.

My country strongly encourages the development of new strategies and approaches to tackling human trafficking. This is why we closely collaborate with the OSCE in updating the existing National Referral Mechanisms Handbook: a framework within which state actors, in cooperation with civil society, fulfil their obligations to protect and promote the human rights of all trafficked persons. We very much hope the revision will allow for a better understanding of the current trends and emerging challenges.

Mister Moderator,

Worldwide displacement has hit an all-time high. The majority of people on the move is undocumented and on a very perilous journey, thereby becoming vulnerable to human trafficking. Increased efforts and new approaches are necessary: This is why on 25th of November, Switzerland is organizing in partnership with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) and the Office of the Special Representative a high level event in Geneva with the aim of identifying best practices in the identification, assistance and referral of victims of human trafficking for forced labour along migration routes. We commend the Special Representative's office for the innovative approach in combating trafficking in human beings along migration routes through a simulation based project aimed at training and capacity-building of relevant actors in the OSCE region. Switzerland is happy to support these efforts.

While the security aspects of current displacement increasingly take center stage, it is important to keep in mind that only a multidisciplinary approach involving development, humanitarian, human rights and security actors will lead to success in the fight against human trafficking. Switzerland therefore encourages the OSCE to build on its comprehensive approach to security and to adopt an integrated approach reaching across all three dimensions.

To conclude, we would like to make the following recommendations:

- 1) We call on all participating States to implement their international obligations and OSCE commitments regarding combating trafficking in human beings and to make full use of the excellent tools provided by the Special Representative's office.
- 2) We encourage the relevant OSCE executive structures and field operations to work closely together in order to enhance the response to human trafficking on the ground. The network of field operations, especially along migratory routes, can play a key role for a concerted and effective approach by the OSCE and its participating States in combating human trafficking.

Thank you.