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DECLARATION ON TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

I.

We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the OSCE, declare that trafficking in human beings represents a dangerous threat to security in the OSCE area and beyond.

We declare that trafficking in human beings and other modern forms of slavery constitute an abhorrent violation of the dignity and rights of human beings.

We recognize that trafficking in human beings represents a serious and rapidly expanding area of transnational organized crime, generating huge profits for criminal networks that may also be associated with criminal acts such as trafficking in drugs and arms, as well as smuggling of migrants.

We recall and reaffirm our full adherence to the OSCE's commitments to combating trafficking in human beings, as reflected in the Moscow Document of 1991, the Charter for European Security adopted in Istanbul in 1999, Ministerial Council Decision No. 1 adopted in Vienna in 2000, Permanent Council Decision No. 426 and Ministerial Council Decision No. 6 adopted in Bucharest in 2001, and declare our determination to strengthen co-operation in addressing trafficking in human beings in countries of origin, transit and destination.

We reaffirm our determination to combat all forms of trafficking in human beings and call on States that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and to its supplementary Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, and to take into account the definition of trafficking in human beings given in the said Protocol. We declare that ratification and full implementation of both these instruments would enhance the international and national legal framework and enforcement capacities for combating trafficking in human beings. We strongly encourage States to consider concurrent ratification and full implementation of the Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, also supplementing the above-mentioned Convention.

We reaffirm our support for the ODIHR's Anti-Trafficking and Gender Issues units and favour an increased involvement of the ODIHR's Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues. We also reaffirm our support for OSCE field operations and the OSCE Secretariat, especially the OSCE Adviser on Gender Issues. We commend them for their comprehensive

approach and for facilitating national efforts in prevention of trafficking in human beings, prosecution of its perpetrators and protection and assistance to victims.

We also support the work of the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings under the auspices of the OSCE. We commend its role as a driving force for the promotion of regional co-operation and the development of relevant initiatives.

II.

We recognize the need to address root causes of trafficking and to reduce the economic and social inequalities and disadvantages, which also provoke illegal migration, and which may be exploited by organized criminal networks for their profit. We also recognize the need to fight corruption, which facilitates the operation of such networks. We recommend that the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities play an increased role in addressing all economic aspects of trafficking in human beings.

We recognize that, in countries of destination, demand for the activities of persons trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery or other practices similar to slavery is an integral factor in trafficking in human beings. We urge countries of destination to take measures to effectively address such a demand as a key element in their strategy for effectively preventing and combating trafficking in human beings, and to exercise zero tolerance towards sexual exploitation, slavery and all forms of exploitation of forced labour, irrespective of its nature.

We are deeply concerned about reports of involvement by some mission members of international organizations in activities related to trafficking in human beings, particularly in post-conflict countries. We reiterate the importance of Permanent Council Decision No. 426, of 12 July 2001, on trafficking in human beings and encourage the adoption and implementation of relevant measures such as the "OSCE Code of Conduct for Mission Members". We will not tolerate international staff members being involved in any illegal activities, inciting this criminal trade or behaving in contravention of this Code of Conduct. We commit ourselves to take all practicable measures to ensure the accountability of international staff members to their respective national, and when appropriate local, authorities for such activities.

We express our concern about the increase in trafficking in minors and, recognizing the special needs of children, we support more research and exchange of information on trafficking in children and, with due regard to the best interest of the child as the primary consideration in all actions concerning children, call for the elaboration of special measures to protect trafficked minors from further exploitation, mindful of their psychological and physical well-being.

We will strive for adequate measures to prevent trafficking in human beings in our countries, taking the form, *inter alia*, of target-oriented awareness raising campaigns and education in countries of origin and transit, directed in particular towards youth and other vulnerable groups, and will seek to develop appropriate campaigns in countries of destination, to organize training for relevant officials and government employees in the areas

of law enforcement, border control, criminal justice and social services, and to recommend full co-operation with NGOs in this field.

We will strive to render assistance and protection to the victims of trafficking, especially women and children, and to this end, when appropriate, to establish effective and inclusive national referral mechanisms, ensuring that victims of trafficking do not face prosecution solely because they have been trafficked. The dignity and human rights of victims must be respected at all times. We will consider adopting appropriate measures, such as shelters, and establishing appropriate repatriation processes for the victims of trafficking, with due regard to their safety, including the provision of documents; and developing policies concerning the provision of economic and social benefits to victims, as well as their rehabilitation and reintegration in society.

We recognize that intensified co-operation among relevant actors in countries of origin, transit and destination plays a critical role in the return programmes for victims of trafficking and facilitates their reintegration. Therefore, we encourage all organizations providing assistance to victims, including NGOs, to further develop such co-operation.

We will consider adopting legislative or other measures that permit victims of trafficking to remain in our territory, temporarily or permanently, in appropriate cases, and giving consideration to humanitarian and compassionate factors.

We call on participating States to enhance international co-operation in combating transnational organized crime, including criminal acts such as trafficking in drugs and arms, as well as smuggling of migrants. Such co-operation should include international law enforcement bodies, such as Europol and Interpol, as well as the Southeast European Co-operative Initiative (SECI), with a view to investigating and prosecuting those responsible for trafficking in human beings in accordance with domestic law and, where applicable, international obligations. In this regard, we ask that the Senior Police Adviser should devote increased attention to the fight against trafficking in human beings.

We reiterate the need for national strategies in order to unite efforts directed towards combating trafficking in human beings and to enhance co-ordination among national, international and regional organizations in this field. This need could be met through measures such as appointing inter-ministerial bodies and national co-ordinators or, as appropriate, other relevant bodies or mechanisms.

III.

We agree to intensify co-operation, based on a multidimensional approach, among the relevant OSCE structures and institutions, as well as among the OSCE and other relevant international organizations and actors, including the United Nations and its specialized agencies, the Council of Europe, the European Union and the International Organization for Migration, and task the Permanent Council with examining how better to assure such a co-operation with a view to combating trafficking in human beings.

We task the Permanent Council, through the informal Working Group on Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking in Human Beings, with revising the Proposed OSCE Action

Plan 2000 for Activities to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings and to elaborate a new draft for further appropriate action by 25 July 2003.

We task the Chairmanship-in-Office and the Permanent Council with using existing OSCE bodies and fora to exchange information, review commitments and share best practices on combating trafficking in human beings, as well as with promoting regular participation by experts representing relevant national institutions and bodies, as well as representatives of partner international organizations and NGOs.