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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1031st MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

18 December 2014

**In response to the report by the OSCE Special Representative and
Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings**

Mr. Chairperson,

We join in welcoming the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova, and thank her for her detailed report on the work of her Office and the future plans in this important and critical area.

We completely agree with you that trafficking in human beings is a global threat and serious crime that results in the violation of basic human rights and freedoms. The extent and degree of the public danger are comparable with illicit drug trafficking, terrorism and arms trafficking. To combat this threat there is a need for systematic efforts to update national legislations and law-enforcement practices, heighten public awareness and create socio-economic conditions to prevent this type of crime from occurring. Stern measures should be taken against criminal groups that are the main organizers or facilitators of the illicit trade in “human goods”.

I shall not dwell in detail on the Addendum to the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings. We were very actively involved in its elaboration. It does indeed contain a large number of recommendations that could be used effectively by States to combat the various forms of human trafficking. I should like to highlight the most urgent issues.

The use of the Internet by criminal groups to enlist and exploit victims of human trafficking is a matter of serious concern. We believe that with the support of the Special Representative the participating States should pay close attention to this matter in accordance with the Addendum to the corresponding OSCE Action Plan adopted at the Kyiv Ministerial Council meeting.

The 2014 United Nations Global Report on Trafficking in Persons confirms the worrying trends in trafficking for sexual exploitation, the increase in trafficking for forced labour, and also trafficking in children.

We take note of the conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons held in November on ethical issues in preventing and combating human trafficking. An event was organized by the Office of the Special Representative in December on preventing trafficking for domestic servitude in diplomatic households. We believe that the exchange of experience was useful for those countries confronted by this problem, but the basic responsibility for the conduct of diplomats nevertheless lies with their Ministries of Foreign Affairs.

At the same time, I should like to emphasize that trafficking for domestic servitude in diplomatic households is not on the same scale as the information provided by you on trafficking in children. I recall that children make up a third of all victims of trafficking. This is a horrifying figure. Children are used for begging, child pornography on the Internet, sexual exploitation and the distribution of narcotics. We believe that all States should pool their efforts to combat this threat, exchange best practices in preventing the exploitation of children by criminal groups specializing in human trafficking, including children who are not in the custody of their parents and are brought up in foster families. This issue is worthy of separate consideration by the OSCE.

We support your efforts to combat trafficking in human beings for the removal of organs. If due attention is not given to these questions, in particular the study, collection of information and exchange of practical experience in combating new forms of human trafficking, including for the removal of tissues and cells, it will be difficult to prevent the appearance of new networks and criminal chains for trafficking in human beings. We note that the United Nations has already adopted a resolution to prevent trafficking in human tissues and cells. We believe that the OSCE could also contribute to the fight against this threat.

Moreover, additional energetic measures in combating trafficking in human beings are needed to eliminate the demand for “human goods” in the main recipient countries.

Equal attention should be paid to the social and economic reasons for the growth in trafficking in human beings. At the same time, we should like to warn against putting illegal migrant workers in the same basket as trafficking in human beings for the purpose of exploitation. Although illegal migrant workers are more vulnerable to involvement in criminal human trafficking networks, the two are not the same.

In conclusion, we should like to thank Ambassador Jarbussynova for her extensive and positive work and wish her dynamic team all the best for the future.

Thank you for your attention.