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**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN AT THE MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

7 April 2011

**In response to the statement by Ms. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro,
Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking
in Human Beings**

Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of the Republic of Uzbekistan has listened carefully to the statement by the Special Representative, Ms. Giammarinaro, and thanks her for her substantive report outlining the state of affairs in this sphere, which is a global issue.

Despite numerous efforts by the international community, trafficking in human beings remains a modern form of slavery and is taking on ever greater proportions, while the number of victims of this phenomenon increases with every year.

We welcome the Special Representative's efforts to find effective approaches based on current developments and best practices.

We believe that greater attention should be paid to prevention and the holding of special events with the broad involvement of relevant specialists and the subsequent dissemination of their practical results. The co-ordination of the Special Representative's work with that of other similar institutions warrants particular attention, and this work should be expanded but not duplicated.

Money-laundering remains another area of concern in our view and one that not only encourages the growth of the shadow economy but is also actively used for the financing of terrorism. It is essential that co-ordinated mechanisms be devised by countries to eradicate this phenomenon.

Considerable attention is being paid in Uzbekistan to the protection of human rights and the combating of transnational crime, which threatens the development of society and the State. Particular importance is given to preventing and combating crimes of this kind and, specifically, to increasing the legal culture of citizens.

The concept for the further intensification of democratic reforms and the formation of civil society in the country, put forward by President Karimov at a joint meeting of the two chambers of the Oliy Majlis on 12 November 2010, has given a fresh impetus to work in this area.

The relevant legislative basis has been established. The year 2008 saw the adoption in our country of the Law on Countering Trafficking in Human Beings and the Law on the Ratification of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (New York, 15 November 2000).

Pursuant to a decision by the President of Uzbekistan, a national action plan has been approved to increase the effectiveness of combating trafficking in human beings. A national interministerial commission has also been established to combat such trafficking.

Systematic measures are being taken in our country to implement legal guarantees. In particular, there has been a dramatic increase in the work to prevent trafficking in human beings. Efforts are continuing to identify persons who have been victims of this crime and to provide them with the necessary assistance. Co-operation has been established between law enforcement authorities and public organizations, which carry out awareness-raising work among the population, training sessions, round tables and other events and make the public at large aware of the consequences of trafficking in human beings.

Furthermore, the Republic of Uzbekistan is a party to the majority of the international documents concerned with combating trafficking in human beings and associated crimes, including United Nations conventions and resolutions adopted by the General Assembly.

In conclusion, we should like to wish Ms. Giammarinaro and her team every success in their work.

Thank you for your attention.