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**REPUBLIC OF CROATIA**

**Statement by  
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**OSCE Review Conference on Human Dimension  
Forward looking discussions  
Session 3: Combating Trafficking in Human Beings,  
with a Particular Focus on Trafficking in Children  
Warsaw, 8 October 2010**

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Although Croatia has aligned itself with the EU statement, allow me to present a few words in our national capacity referred to combating trafficking in Human Beings.

The Office for Human Rights of the Government of the Republic of Croatia as a national co-coordinative body in the field of combating trafficking in Human Beings pays lots of attention to combating trafficking in children as an especially vulnerable group.

Taking into account the above-mentioned statement, in 2008 the Office for Human Rights has made proposal for amendments to the Criminal Code in the part concerning the methods of exploitation of a child or a minor (Article 175. par.2.). The said provision has not specified the illegal adoption as a form of exploitation of children or minors - victims of trafficking. The above-mentioned suggestion has been adopted and incorporated into the provisions of the article in the Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code (Official Gazette N°152/08).

Working to enhance the legislative framework on child protection has continued within the new National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the period 2009 -2011. One of the activities in the National Plan provides for the special protection of children - victims of trafficking, and thus determines the adoption of two separate documents: the National strategy to protect children from abuse and negligence and the National Plan against sexual exploitation of children. National strategy to protect children from abuse and negligence is in progress and its adoption is expected by the end of 2010.

The National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the period 2009-2011 provided for the adoption of the Protocol on the procedure for the voluntary return of trafficked persons, which has been adopted by the Conclusion of the Government of the Republic of Croatia from 13. December 2009. The Protocol on the procedure for the voluntary return of trafficked persons pays special attention to the protection of the rights of children – victims of trafficking, while ensuring their safe return.

Considering that the education of target groups is one of the best ways to prevent trafficking in Human Beings, the Office for Human Rights conducts ongoing trainings for all target groups envisaged in the National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the period 2009 – 2011 in which children are determined as a particularly important target group.

Mr. Chairman,

As an example of good practice we would like to point out a public campaign conducted by the Office for Human Rights, which was aimed at potential users of services of victims of trafficking. Within the campaign all target groups have been displayed - men, women and children to labor and sexual exploitation. A TV spot and posters have been prepared.

Statistical data of the Republic of Croatia show that in 2008 none minor victim of trafficking has been identified. In 2009 in the Republic of Croatia totally 8 victims of trafficking, of which 1 child, have been identified. The identified victim is a female, a citizen of Bosnia and Herzegovina, born in 1998, sexually exploited. Please note that also two female victims at the age of 18 have been identified, one of which was exploited for work, while the other victim was forced to do the “pick-pocketing” for offenders. Until September 2010, five victims of trafficking have been identified in total, of which one child, an ethnic Roma, sold for marriage.

Thank you for your attention.

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