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**STATEMENT BY MR. OLEG BURMISTROV,
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

7 April 2011

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

Mr. Chairperson,

We join other speakers in welcoming Ms. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

It goes without saying that the ideas presented to the Permanent Council for stepping up our Organization's efforts to prevent and counter this modern form of slavery merit the closest attention. In view of the multifaceted nature of the problem of trafficking as a modern-day challenge, we are impressed by the Special Representative's all-embracing approach to curtailing it.

Given the fact that the OSCE has already developed a whole series of commitments in the fight against trafficking in human beings, we believe that it is important for attention to be paid as a priority to their implementation.

We fully agree with the point made by Ms. Giammarinaro that tangible success in combating this negative phenomenon cannot be achieved without removing the underlying causes: poverty and a high level of unemployment in the countries of origin, and the steady demand for workers who are cheap and without rights in the countries of destination.

Without a doubt, this type of criminal activity goes undetected to such a great extent because of the phenomenon of illegal migration and, as a consequence, the illegal exploitation of foreign labourers.

We are convinced that the international community can achieve effective results in the fight against trafficking only by co-ordinating its efforts with those of participating States at the national level. These include the further improvement of the corresponding legislation and law-enforcement practices, greater public awareness of the problems of trafficking in human beings, creation of an adequate socio-economic framework for society's development and countering illegal migration.

We agree that combating this modern-day form of slavery should be given priority in the OSCE's work. We believe that the fundamental role played by our Organization and its Co-ordinator should be that of granting practical assistance at the request of the participating States in meeting their commitments with regard to combating trafficking. It is important in this regard that our Organization does not attempt to take on itself the task of resolving problems of a global nature but should rather focus on effectively supplementing the efforts of specialist international bodies, particularly the United Nations.

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

Thank you for your attention.