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ENGLISH only

To: All Delegations
Secretariat

Please find attached the summary of the meeting of the **Informal Working Group on Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking** held on 10 May 2004.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amb. Kongshem, Dr. Gracheva". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of a small, illegible stamp or mark.

Amb. Kongshem, Dr. Gracheva
Co-Chairs of the Group

**Summary
of the meeting of the Informal Working Group
on Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking**

10 May 2004

*Co-chairs: Ambassador Mette Kongshem (NORWAY)
Dr. Vera Gracheva (RUSSIAN FEDERATION)*

1. Adoption of the Agenda:

The *Co-Chairs and delegations* congratulated Dr. Helga Konrad on her appointment as Special Representative on Trafficking in Human Beings. The *Co-Chair (Norway)* also welcomed the focal point representatives to the meeting.

2. Implementation of the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings by the Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU):

The *Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU) Representative* presented his Unit's implementation of the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings (AP THB). He recalled that in 2003 the SPMU had been invited to provide input for the AP THB. The AP entrusted the SPMU with the task of promoting the concept of policing, working with ODIHR to develop human trafficking investigation training for police as well as developing guidelines for identifying victims of THB. One of the goals of the SPMU had been the establishment of a repository of police best practices and lessons learnt, particularly in human trafficking. He underlined that the SPMU was highly committed to the concept of community policing. Through community policing, the SPMU sought to enhance a positive perception of the police within the local populations, which would in turn encourage victims to come forward with information relating to cases of human trafficking. The *SPMU Representative* continued by noting the on-going fruitful interaction between the OCEEA and the SPMU. He also mentioned the productive relationship and information exchange with the ODIHR's Anti-Trafficking Unit. Furthermore, the *SPMU Representative* noted that during 2003 and early 2004 the SPMU also worked closely with Interpol and Europol in assisting a number of OSCE missions with anti-trafficking activities. In 2003, the *SPMU* also hosted an international expert meeting on human trafficking. The meeting's list of participants evolved into a directory of human trafficking experts. The aim of this directory was to facilitate co-operation amongst law enforcement bodies. In conclusion, the *SPMU Representative* informed about the upcoming international police expert workshop on sexual crime which would take place in Vienna on 26 and 27 July 2004. He noted that special emphasis would be placed on the sexual abuse of children.

The *Co-Chair (Norway)* underlined the importance of focusing on the topic of community policing in fighting trafficking. The *Co-Chair (Russian Federation)* wondered whether all participating States were aware of the assistance the SPMU could provide to them in the field of trafficking in human beings. The *SPMU* noted that indeed not all participating States were aware of the assistance they could receive. He added that with an increase in resources, the awareness level could also be raised. *Ms. Konrad, Special Representative for Anti-trafficking*, underlined the need for law enforcement mechanisms to combat human trafficking. The *SPMU* noted that indeed legal statutes had to be revised in order to allow law

enforcement authorities to undertake investigations in trafficking cases. The focal point of the *OSCE Mission to Serbia and Montenegro* wondered who exactly were the victims of trafficking. It noted that the term ought to be more precisely defined. *One delegation* asked for more information about the financial resources available to the SPMU. The *SPMU Representative* stated that most of the Unit's activities were funded by extra budgetary contributions. The focal point of the *OSCE Mission to Albania* wondered whether the SPMU had already done work targeting the consumers of trafficking in human beings. *Ms. Konrad* also underlined the need to address the demand side of the issue. *IOM* informed delegations that last week it had organized, together with SECI and the Stability Pact, a special law enforcement training seminar. It added that the seminar had mainly dealt with issues relating to trafficking in children. It furthermore noted that another Seminar on Social Service Providers would be organized in Prague in September. *One delegation* also stressed the importance of addressing the demand side of trafficking. It mentioned that laws had been passed in its country which criminalized perpetrators of its nationality also when the exploitation has taken place abroad. *One delegation* asked for more information regarding police training activities. The *SPMU Representative* noted that a lot of information concerning police training activities were posted on the Internet, but added that much of the information needed to be translated into different languages. *Another delegation* informed about the adoption of a new amendment to its penal code concerning the combat of trafficking in human beings, on 30 March 2004. It also asked whether the SPMU had taken steps to strengthen the contact with NGOs regarding the topic. The *SPMU Representative* recalled the directory of human trafficking experts, and hoped that through this list co-operation with NGOs would be increased. *Ms. Konrad* stressed that co-operation between NGOs and governments should be institutionalized, and furthermore noted that a network of NGOs should be developed.

3. INTERPOL and anti-trafficking. Presentation by Norwegian Chief of Police, Ms. Gangaas, Chairperson of the INTERPOL Working Group on Anti-Trafficking. Discussion.

Ms. Gangaas, Chairperson of the Interpol Working Group on Anti-Trafficking, began her presentation by recalling the Palermo Convention. She noted that one of the results of the Convention was the establishment of the Interpol Working Group on trafficking in women for sexual exploitation. She noted that Interpol was composed of 183 member states and was a unique communication system. *Ms. Gangaas* continued by listing some of the Working Group's achievements, which included the following: One of the objectives of the Group had been to develop and publish a manual of "best practices" for investigators. Second, she pointed out that the International Specialist Law Enforcement underlined the importance of information sharing. The third achievement of the Group was an analytical project called "Red Routes". The goal of the project was to increase the number of people receiving punishment for trafficking crimes. One of the future goals of the group would be to increase co-operation on national and international levels concerning the issue of trafficking, as well as continue the exchange of information for building a database.

The focal point of the *OSCE Mission in Kosovo* wondered whether there was an outreach programme for helping those countries which were not members of Interpol. *Ms. Gangaas* replied that indeed Interpol was in contact with various non-member countries. The *Co-Chair (Norway)* wondered whether the Interpol Working Group on Anti-Trafficking was considering re-directing its future work to include trafficking in bonded labour. *Ms. Gangaas* replied that the Group's main focus would remain on trafficking in women for sexual

exploitation for the time being though the Group did recognize the need to address other forms of modern slavery.

4. Presentation by Focal Points for Gender Issues in the OSCE Mission in Kosovo and the OSCE Mission to Serbia and Montenegro

The *focal point for Gender Issues in the OSCE Mission in Kosovo* elaborated on some of the initiatives which were currently being undertaken, which included the following: changing current legislation to include laws on anti-trafficking, building institutions to help in combating trafficking, amending the criminal code to prosecute traffickers and protect victims, and creating gender equality mechanisms. She also added that currently a draft gender equality law was being created. The *focal point of the OSCE Mission to Serbia and Montenegro* also noted that the institutionalization of gender equality mechanisms was one of their main objectives. She mentioned that several national focal points had been established in Serbia and Montenegro: 30 in Serbian municipalities and 3 in Montenegrin municipalities. The focal points were very useful in raising gender equality awareness. The Focal point also mentioned that Serbia and Montenegro lacked laws on gender equality and statistics on gender exploitation. She furthermore noted that many donors withdrew their assistance due to the political situation. The *Co-Chair (Norway)* thanked the two focal points for their comprehensive presentations.

5. Preparation for Human Dimension Seminar on Democratic Institutions and Democratic Governance. The gender aspect.

The *ODIHR Representative* briefed delegations on the preparations for the Human Dimension Seminar. She noted that it was a direct follow-up to the last year's Human Dimension Seminar and that the gender aspect had been included in all the working groups. One of the Seminar's goals was to create a culture of equal participation in all political and legislative matters. She also noted that the guest speakers were equally balanced in gender. The *Co-Chair (Norway)* underlined the importance of focusing on the topic of the empowerment of women at the Human Dimension Seminar. She stated that the OSCE documents often referred to "women and other vulnerable/disadvantaged groups". Such statements only contributed to cement a perception of women as not equal to men.

6. Preparation for the Economic Forum. The gender aspect.

The *Co-Chair (Norway)* mentioned that there would be several occasions to discuss gender issues at the upcoming Economic Forum. She cited the session on "Capacity building for the private sector" as an opportunity for such discussions.

7. Any other business

The *Co-Chair (Norway)* noted that a revised draft of the Gender Action Plan would be circulated in 1 week. She looked forward to delegations' comments and suggestions. She mentioned that the next drafting session would take place on Tuesday, 8 June at 3 p.m. Furthermore, the Swedish Equal Opportunities Ombudsman would also address the meeting.