

HDIM 2012**Working Session 8: Humanitarian issues and other commitments (continued), including:**

- Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings

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Working Session 8 was devoted to trafficking in human beings with particular focus on the implementation of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings.

The introducer, OSCE Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Ms. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, highlighted the importance of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, which was adopted in 2003 and still remains valid and forward-looking. However, due to the new challenges we face today, a so-called “second wave” of anti-trafficking efforts is needed. Ms. Giammarinaro emphasized how massive is the scale of phenomena of trafficking in human beings for any forms of exploitation as well as its ever-changing features which affect many sectors of our economy. Ms. Giammarinaro highlighted the following problematic issues that we face today: non-punishment provisions of victims of crimes that should be introduced in the legislation and enforced; internal trafficking requires more attention; combating corruption and money laundering related to trafficking requires more action; child trafficking is another area which deserves attention; trafficking for sexual exploitation remains one of the most horrific form of trafficking; new forms of trafficking are evolving such as trafficking for the removal of organs. Three areas are identified as such that need our particular attention: strengthening the humanitarian approach to human trafficking; application of effective criminal penalties; and enhancing preventive measures to reduce trafficking in human beings.

The second introducer, Executive Secretary of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings Ms. Petya Nestorova, illustrated the situation regarding trafficking in human beings by presenting recently published figures of the International Labour Organization, according to which nearly 21 million people are victims of labour exploitation around the world. The Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings has been ratified by 37 states. The importance of more countries ratifying the Convention was stressed. Besides the Convention, the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings remains a very important tool as well. Ms. Nestorova focused on three important areas: identification of victims, compensation, and prosecution.

The majority of interventions highlighted the importance of the work of the Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings as well as ODIHR in the field of fight against human trafficking. The work of GRETA as a valuable tool in assessment of the country’s anti-trafficking actions was welcomed.

Identification of victims of human trafficking, assistance to them, prevention of trafficking in human beings, increasing prosecution of traffickers, enhancement of co-operation among key actors, raising knowledge and effective response to emerging concerns related to all forms of trafficking in human beings constitute priority areas for a large number of participating States.

Delegations shared their positive experiences in the area of prevention, including close co-operation with civil society. In this respect, one participating State informed about the Memorandum of Understanding between the government and more than 40 non-governmental organizations aimed at facilitating joint efforts in the fight against human trafficking. One participating State mentioned its experience with a public awareness campaign organized during the EURO-2012 Championship. Such experience was very much welcomed.

Some participating States expressed their support for addressing the subject of domestic workers in diplomatic households. Trafficking in human beings with the aim of labour and sexual exploitation as well as trafficking with the aim of organ removal were mentioned as those that need a comprehensive approach. One participating States called on the OSCE, especially the Mission in Kosovo, to support the investigation of trafficking in human beings in Kosovo.

Many participating States and non-governmental organizations called for strengthening the international co-operation and co-ordination of the efforts of governments with those of the civil society. International co-operation among law-enforcement needs to be intensified in order to reach a significant result. Co-operation between the countries of origin and countries of destination is needed as well.

Future work of the OSCE in the field of combating human trafficking will be based on the Vilnius Declaration and the OSCE Action Plan. However, according to the Special Representative, there are also new areas requiring new OSCE commitments.

Recommendations to the participating States:

- Participating States should increase their human rights approach and protection of victims of trafficking including legal assistance;
- Participating States are encouraged to join the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, as it is open for non-member as well as CoE States;
- Participating States should strengthen prosecution of state officials for involvement in trafficking in human beings;
- Participating States should promote elimination of discrimination against working women and promote equal opportunities as a preventive measure to reduce trafficking in human beings;
- Participating States should provide training for involved officials as well as special training on the topic for journalists;
- Participating States should intensify efforts to ensure rights of domestic workers at diplomatic households;
- Educational courses on trafficking in human beings should be introduced in schools and universities;

- Big public events should be used in order to increase public awareness on the issue.

Recommendations to the OSCE, its institutions and field operations:

- The OSCE Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings as well as ODIHR should continue to assist participating States in implementation of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings;
- ODIHR should continue work on facilitation the co-operation between the NGO;
- ODIHR and the OSCE Mission in Kosovo should support the investigation of trafficking in human beings in Kosovo.