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Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

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Check Against Delivery!

Your Excellencies, dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to have this opportunity to discuss trafficking in persons as a transnational threat to international and national security in the context of the 2010 **Annual Security Review Conference**.

I am not an academic, I am a judge. Since 1991 have served at the Criminal Court of Rome and I am used to handling cases of organized crime, including cases of Trafficking in Human Beings. My knowledge of the subject is therefore strongly based on professional experience. However, I will build on the most recent studies which are relevant to develop our strategic reasoning for anti-trafficking action.

I will address the issue of the current features of trafficking in human beings as a human rights violation and a serious crime resulting in modern-day slavery, mostly committed by organized crime. As I believe that it is my duty to raise these, crucial issues for comprehensive security at this high-level forum, I will also deal with the non-obvious question why, and in which sense, trafficking in human beings must be considered a threat for security. I will subsequently identify the new challenges of the struggle against trafficking in human beings, and highlight how international co-operation can be an added value in preventing and combating trafficking in human beings.

Trafficking in human beings as organized crime on a massive scale

What is trafficking in human beings today? Trafficking is modern-day slavery, one of the most appalling violations of the fundamental rights, dignity and integrity of a person occurring on a massive scale and largely in the hands of criminal groups. I am convinced that we have to change our perception of trafficking. Although some forms of trafficking, for example, trafficking for the purpose of domestic servitude, and in more limited terms trafficking for sexual exploitation can be carried out by individuals, trafficking nowadays is mostly a business for organized crime. Trafficking for labour exploitation, in particular, is becoming one of the most widespread forms of trafficking, and in addition to private households, is taking place in agriculture, construction, fishing, food processing, the textile industry, in restaurants and the hospitality sectors. Other forms of exploitation occur in a purely criminal context, such as organized begging, pick-pocketing, and selling of stolen items and drugs.

Human trafficking is too often confused with human smuggling. It is, however, important to understand that these are two different crimes. While smuggling always involves crossing a border in an irregular manner, trafficking in human beings occurs both within a country and across borders. Moreover, the fundamental element of trafficking is exploitation. Trafficked persons are moved into unfamiliar and isolated environments where they are forced to work under threat or coercion, often to pay back an insurmountable debt in conditions that amount to slavery. They are not free to leave: they are in situations from which they cannot escape, they have “no real and acceptable alternative but to submit to the abuse involved.”¹ These people often do not speak the language; are unaware of their rights; are deprived of their documents; and depend heavily on their exploiter for food, boarding and lodging as well as making contact with the outside world. They are the preferred *employees* because they are

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UN Doc A/55/383/Add.1 UN 3 November 2000 Para 63.

hard working and flexible, and they are unwilling and/or unable to protest and denounce their exploiters.

Once we have ascertained that trafficking in human beings is a serious crime, we turn to a second question: what is the current scale of trafficking? The minimum estimate by the International Labour Organisation indicates that out of 12 million persons – victims of forced labour – there are a minimum of 2.45 million victims of trafficking globally, of which at least half a million are in the OSCE area.² We should add to this number further cases of debt bondage in which victims are subjugated and exploited through subtle means, usually a combination of threats and economic constraints. Therefore, one can make an informed guess that hundreds of thousands of additional cases should be counted as trafficking cases. In 2009, Europol reported that trafficking for labour exploitation is increasing, principally in the sectors of construction, drug production, and forced begging. They further added that trafficking of children for both sexual and labour exploitation is growing.³

Another indicator of the scale of trafficking in human beings is related to the proceeds of the crime. The total market value of human trafficking amounts to an estimated \$32 billion, a profitable criminal business based on the exploitation of millions of people across the globe who have become mere commodities in the informal economy of forced labour.⁴

Therefore, trafficking is not something marginal, limited to sexual exploitation or to profiles of certain types of victims only. It is a phenomenon occurring on a massive scale, which affects the global economy, hampers economic growth, fuels corruption, and undermines the rule of law throughout the OSCE area. This is the change of perception which is needed today, in order to identify the real challenges we have to face and adapt the institutional response to it.

Various law enforcement agencies and scholars have recently highlighted the character of organized crime networks which mostly run the trafficking process. EUROPOL talks about a “criminal hub”, a conceptual entity that is generated by a combination of factors such as proximity to major destination markets, geographic location, infrastructure, types of organized crime (OC) groups and migration processes. Such criminal hubs are complex configurations which shape criminal markets in large parts of EU, although they are supplied by so-called feeders which are often located just inside or outside the EU borders and provide goods for EU criminal markets. For example, the South West criminal hubs have an impact especially in the criminal markets of cocaine, cannabis, trafficking in human beings and illegal migration.⁵

At the same time, academic research on organized crime related with trafficking in human beings remains scarce. However, internationally recognized scholars have recently carried out a business model analysis on trafficking in human beings, under the auspices of OSCE and UN.GIFT. They highlighted that trafficking in human beings may involve different types of organized crime ranging from highly structured international trafficking networks to loosely connected clusters of people, together forming a very flexible and specialized trafficking

² ILO, A global alliance against forced labour, Geneva 2005.

³ Europol, OCTA 2009 EU Organised Crime Threat Assessment.

⁴ ILO, op. cit..

⁵ Europol, OCTA 2009, EU Organised Crime Threat Assessment.

network, which is difficult to disrupt.⁶ These findings confirmed what other researchers had argued. Each node in a network consists of a specific function of the operation and is usually completed by a specialist who is not involved in anything other than this particular function. All the people involved go about their own business and get their own share of profit from their own activity. Contacts between the nodes of the network operate along the lines of business relations.⁷

Other scholars have used the “social network model” to explain the actual functioning of a certain form of organized crime dealing with trafficking in human beings. One or more agents can fulfil each of the roles in the model. Individuals can serve as recruiters, transporters, protectors or any number of other roles. Small groups of two or three individuals can also specialize in one role. The larger the trafficking scheme, the more likely one is to find associated criminal activities such as document fraud, money laundering, cyber-crime and corruption.⁸ Another author uses a similar conceptual framework, and affirms that some networks can be understood as transactional rather than organizational. Linkages between individual and groups are constantly being made, then abandoned, co-operation is short term, and trust is limited.⁹

Furthermore, linkages between trafficking in human beings and other types of crimes are increasingly reported. UNODC estimates that some twenty other serious crimes are usually related to trafficking in human beings at various stages of the trafficking process, including drug trafficking, documents forgery, fraud, immigration law abuse, kidnapping, sexual assault, rape, murder, forced abortion, torture, money laundering, tax evasion, corruption of officials, and the intimidation or subversion of officials.¹⁰

What is more alarming is that it is increasingly acknowledged that funds from trafficking in human beings are potential sources of income for terrorism. Some reports indicate that young people have been trafficked for terrorism. This information was recently confirmed by international experts at the Seminar organized by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva (27-28 May 2010). Terrorist groups recruit their victims and indoctrinate them into becoming suicide bombers, out of the most vulnerable layers of the population. Children trafficked for these purposes are used as suicide terrorists attacking civilian objects.

Whatever conceptual framework is adopted to analyse organized crime with respect to trafficking in human beings, all the consulted sources underline the fluid character of criminal groups active in this field. There is general agreement that trafficking is not predominantly run by traditional and highly hierarchical criminal groups but by extremely flexible and sometimes specialized networks, which carry out different types of crime.

Again, we have to change our perception of trafficking. These loose networks are no less dangerous than the traditional hierarchical criminal groups. On the contrary, these new

⁶ Analysing the Business Model of Trafficking in Human Beings to Better Prevent the Crime. OSCE-UN.GIFT Report, 2010.

⁷ Institute for International Research on Criminal Policy, Ghent University, Organised crime involvement in trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, p.38.

⁸ John Picarelli, Human trafficking and organized crime in the US and Western Europe, in C.Frisendorf (Ed), Strategies against Human Trafficking: the Role of the Security Sector, Schutz und Hilfe, 2009.

⁹ Phil Williams, Combating human trafficking: improving governance institutions, mechanism and strategies, ibidem.

¹⁰ UNODC, Toolkit to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

criminal clusters display a stronger capacity to adapt the *modus operandi* of each specialized cell to both the market and the institutional anti-trafficking response, and therefore their increasing criminal power should not be underestimated. On the contrary we need to raise the quality of our response to counter the real danger posed by traffickers.

Trafficking in human beings as a threat for security

Bearing in mind the massive scale and organized crime nature of trafficking in human beings, it is easier to understand why trafficking must be considered one of the most serious transnational threats for security. This is especially true if we consider security from the point of view of the safety and human rights of each individual, economic growth, and democratic institution building, in each of our participating States. After all, security is about people and their well-being.

I will not go into the details of a theoretical approach to security, but rather highlight that trafficking interferes with various dimensions of security. In this respect, I believe that the often used construct of hard versus soft security is problematic. Except for military issues, this can be confusing and even marginalize serious security issues. What is the difference between hard and soft as far as security matters? Why are gender and trafficking in human beings considered "soft", but drugs are "hard"? To better explain, I borrow the words of Don Steinberg, Deputy President for Policy at the International Crisis Group: "There is nothing "soft" about going after traffickers who turn women and girls into commodities. There is nothing "soft" about going preventing armed thugs from abusing women in internally displaced person's camps or about holding warlords and other human rights violators accountable for their actions against women."¹¹

First of all, trafficking in human beings violates the fundamental rights and dignity of people who fall victim to such a crime, and therefore it is a threat for an individual's security. The existence of criminal networks recruiting people to go abroad with the false promise of gainful employment, deceiving and then exploiting these migrants, allegedly to achieve the pay-back of a debt, or selling them to other exploiters, is a major reason of insecurity for millions of migrant workers looking for better opportunities for their lives. This aspect should always be paramount in designing security policy concerning trafficking in human beings.¹² If not, too often victims are penalized or even arrested for violations of immigration regulations or other related offences such as the lack of a residence or work permit, illegal border crossing, or fraudulent documents, and the very fact that the person was actually trafficked for exploitation is overlooked. A further consequence is that the person is immediately deported, and that a potential case of trafficking in human beings is not detected and investigated. Of course, not all irregular migrants are trafficked and reduced to slavery-like conditions, but a significant proportion of them are actually trafficked. The concern about State security and border control should therefore be balanced, taking into account other aspects of security, especially the human rights of the individual and the threat posed by organized crime.

¹¹ OSCE Magazine 2/2009

¹² Elspeth Guild, Security and migration in the 21st century, Polity Press, 2009.

Health security is also at stake, and not only for the individual trafficked person but also for the wider public. In most of the cases of trafficking for sexual exploitation, women and girls are affected by HIV disease and suffer the consequences of post-traumatic stress disorder or other trauma comparable to that observed in victims of torture.¹³ Health security is also threatened in the majority of cases of labour exploitation, in which inhuman and degrading conditions lead to infection or other serious disease, and even death. Finally, health security is affected in the most cruel way in cases of trafficking in human organs, when a person is abducted or even gives consent to sell, for example, a kidney and, following an operation, is thrown onto the street without any compensation, without documents, disabled and placed in debt bondage for the so-called medical treatment. The health implications as consequences of child trafficking are often incurable and have a life-time effect on the survivor.

Ultimately, personal security from crime means freedom from violence and slavery. This is the core of our discussion if we address human trafficking. Trafficking in human beings is a severe crime against an individual which entails gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, sometimes – even the right to life, and at a minimum – the right to be free from degrading treatment, deprivation of freedom of movement, violation of the whole spectrum of social rights, discrimination, and enslavement.

Secondly, further aspects of security are involved when trafficking in human beings is linked with conflict situations.

As the world's largest regional security organization – an organization mandated to address conflict prevention, management and post-conflict rehabilitation – it is important to emphasize that conflict exacerbates trafficking in human beings. It is estimated by the UN that 300,000 children (both boys and girls who are escaping rape) as young as 8 have been trafficked as child soldiers serving in over 30 armed conflicts all over the world for government or armed rebel forces.¹⁴ Violence against women is rampant during times of conflict, including rape as a systematic weapon of war which is now recognized as a war crime. Organized crime, including trafficking in human beings, thrives in conflict areas as governments are destabilized and rule of law is undermined. Due to the international dimension of organized crime, which allows these networks to operate across sovereign borders, no one country defending alone against them can be assured international and homeland security.

There is increasing recognition of how trafficking for sexual and labour exploitation undermines security and international peacekeeping efforts. International military organizations and their staff have been targeted for both labour and sex trafficking in the countries of deployment. While the vast majority of military personnel conduct themselves honorably, a number of recent cases of trafficking in human beings have occurred in connection with international military organizations. We have begun to enforce laws and policies that address the abuse of a position of power of some international forces and workers, and to promote respect for human dignity.

Thirdly, I want to focus particularly on one further dimension of security issues related with trafficking in human beings as a massive scale phenomenon. Trafficking in human beings is a

¹³Cathy Zimmerman, The health risks and consequences of trafficking in women and adolescents, 2003 available at <http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/hpu/docs/traffickingfinal.pdf>

¹⁴Alexis Aronowitz, Human Trafficking, Human Misery: the Global Trade in Human Beings, 2009 p.103.

threat for security also from the point of view of its impact on the economy and democratic institution building. Trafficking in human beings is a constant source of danger to stability and development. It is sufficient to think about the huge number of migrant workers who are trafficked for the purpose of labour exploitation in agriculture or construction. Not only are the rights of these workers violated, but the employers gain huge profits from their illegal business and tax evasion as they benefit from unpaid work on a large scale. The normal rules of market competition are deviated or even disrupted.

Corruption has been grossly underestimated as a driver of trafficking in human beings. According to a recent study on trafficking and security, in numerous investigated cases state officials were found involved in corrupt practices relating to trafficking in human beings. In addition to breaking the law, such officials are at risk of being blackmailed, and persuaded to engage in other types of smuggling and trafficking, such as narcotics or arms. These officers of the state could then become involved in a broad variety of crimes. It is obvious that this constitutes a serious security threat.¹⁵

Investigative information shows a vast phenomenon of reinvestment of the proceeds of trafficking especially in countries of origin. Trafficking in Human Beings was chosen as a subject for the joint FATF/MONEYVAL¹⁶ typologies exercise due to the importance of such trafficking as a potential source of proceeds.

Money laundering is generally considered one of the common denominators of organized crime and the necessary interface between licit and illicit markets. Through money laundering, the proceeds of illegal activities, including trafficking in human beings, are conveyed to the legitimate economic sector for business investments. Real estate and related activities – from construction and restoration to property investment companies and real estate agencies – are the most common tools habitually used by organized crime to launder money.¹⁷

Analysis carried out on traditional organized crime shows that companies dominated by criminal groups constitute an illegal parallel economic channel. However, in time such companies tend to infiltrate or disrupt legitimate businesses which are their competitors in order to achieve a monopoly position in certain areas such as public procurement. They therefore need to bribe public officials and sometimes use their economic power to acquire political influence. This situation is particularly detrimental for security in countries in which the weight of financial resources coming from abroad is a decisive component of the national wealth. According to the World Bank, several OSCE countries are in the top 15 remittance receiving countries in the world. There are patterns of particular money transfers or payment methods facilitating human trafficking and illegal immigration, since remittances are sent back to the source countries by criminals or on behalf of persons who have been trafficked.¹⁸

¹⁵ Leslie Homes, Human Rights and Corruption: Triple Victimisation?, in Cornelius Friesendorf (Ed), Strategies Against Human Trafficking: the Role of the Security Sector.) 2009.

¹⁶ Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures (MONEYVAL)

¹⁷ EUROPOL, OCTA 2009, EU Organised Crime Threat Assessment

¹⁸ Financial Action Task Force, Money Laundering & Terrorist Financing Typologies 2004-2005, OECD 2005 available at <http://www.fatf-gafi.org/dataoecd/16/8/35003256.pdf>

As a consequence of the significant amount of illicit proceeds originating from drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings and other criminal activities, illegal markets play a major role in the globalized economy.

To sum up, from the point of view of economic and democratic development, the threat for security deriving from trafficking in human beings is mostly linked to what the UK Agency on Serious Organised Crime (SOCA) classifies as “structural harm” at the community/region level. The damage affects the commonly shared perception of the integrity of public and private institutions and systems, as a result of serious organized crime activity, or the action of those using its commodities and services (e.g. local areas dominated by seemingly ‘untouchable’ criminal elements, or local political or business leaders corrupted by or under the malign influence of serious organised crime).¹⁹ The first step to tackle the problem is to acknowledge that similar situations are not an exception in many local or regional areas of the OSCE participating States.

In this framework, why is trafficking in human beings an emerging threat? Empirical evidence suggests that trafficking in human beings is becoming an inexhaustible source of profits which are constantly reinvested in all kinds of other criminal activities, including drug trafficking and trafficking in weapons; the latter often in connection with terrorism. In fact drugs can be bought and sold. People, in addition to being bought and sold, are exploited for years without any wages, or with wages which do not go beyond subsistence. This is the new profitable renewable business for criminal networks. Our challenge is to prevent it, combat it, and ultimately to eradicate it.

The challenges regarding the response to trafficking in human beings

Against this background, the law enforcement and criminal justice response to trafficking in human beings remains largely inadequate, while NGOs and civil society are stretched to the limit in trying to support trafficked persons, often without long term funding from governments. Reported criminal proceedings for trafficking in human beings are modest. According to the US Trafficking in Persons Report in 2008, a total global number of 5,212 trafficking prosecutions were recorded. It is reasonable to assume that a large number of criminal proceedings are often carried out on the basis of an indictment for less serious crimes. But even so, the criminal justice response is not comparable with the scale of the crime; moreover, only final exploiters are targeted, mainly in the field of sexual exploitation; the level of penalties is low compared to the gravity of the crime; no seizure or confiscation of the proceeds of crime is carried out in the vast majority of cases.

Therefore, trafficking in human beings is still a low-risk crime compared to other types of organized crime, which can be considered a concurrent driving factor of trafficking in human beings. Anti-trafficking action in the field of prosecution should aim at increasing the impact and the deterrent effect of the criminal justice response. This means that the response should meet the new challenges deriving from: the massive scale of the crime especially in the growing field of labour exploitation, the international nature of criminal networks and the increasing trend towards reinvestment of proceeds of crime and money laundering. At the same time, criminal proceedings should be confiscated and used to secure the protection of victims’ rights, and in particular to make their right to obtain compensation a reality.

¹⁹ Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) United Kingdom, *The United Kingdom Threat Assessment of Organised Crime* 2009/10, annex 1: Harm Framework for Organised Crime, p.69.

In order to raise the profile and quality of the law enforcement and criminal justice response, more sophisticated investigation techniques should be used on a regular basis, in order to detect and disrupt the whole transnational criminal networks rather than arresting only individual criminals, typically the final exploiters, or the smaller fish.

Since trafficking in human beings is a profit driven crime, it is imperative to find, freeze and forfeit the proceeds of crime. This requires the use of financial investigation on a routine basis as well as on a large scale. This is a difficult challenge. As opposed to what happens in cases related to drug trafficking, so far this investigative tool is underutilized and almost unknown in trafficking cases. The use of financial investigation is particularly important to trace the proceeds of crime in the country in which usually such proceeds are reinvested and laundered, often in countries of origin. This requires decisive improvements in law enforcement and judicial co-operation, especially between the country in which exploitation takes place, and the country of origin where profits are reinvested.

Law enforcement and judicial experience shows that the contribution of the victim is absolutely essential for successful prosecution. The protection of victims' rights must be ensured before, during and after criminal proceedings not only to comply with a clear obligation under international human rights standards, but also to promote successful investigation and prosecution.

However, the role of intelligence, and the collection of other evidence not dependent on a victim's testimony, such as related to tax evasion, etc., should be adequately valued. Intelligence-led investigations – included on the basis of military intelligence where appropriate – should be much more developed and become routine mechanisms to initiate trafficking in human beings investigations without solely relying on victims reporting the crime. Intelligence resources should also be used to achieve better knowledge of major activities of organized crime, new markets, innovation in money laundering, and measures undertaken by criminal networks to counteract the criminal justice response.

For all these purposes, consistent operational objectives are the following:

- increasing the capacity of law enforcement operational units, especially those specialised or in charge of trafficking in human beings cases and/or organized crime cases;
- generalizing the use of the most advanced and sophisticated investigative tools such as phone tapping, electronic surveillance, financial investigation and under-cover operations;
- promoting the full involvement and cooperation of specialised financial police units, to trace financial operations linked with trafficking in human beings cases, and ensure confiscation of the proceeds;
- promoting capacity building of practitioners, particularly aimed at giving legal counselling and assistance to trafficked persons, and help them to claim pay-back of wages and compensation;
- promoting the international networking of police and prosecutorial specialised units, with a view to facilitating international law enforcement and judicial cooperation, including the use of joint investigation teams;

OSCE action against trafficking in human beings

The OSCE is ideally placed to combat this transnational threat, in its ability to work comprehensively across all three dimensions of security: political-military, economic and the human dimension. It is a unique security organization taking a human rights and cross-dimensional approach to trafficking in human beings. Its first specific anti-trafficking Ministerial Decision (Enhancing OSCE Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Vienna, 2000), provided the organizational mandate and approached trafficking in human beings as a form of transnational organized crime and called for intensified co-operation for combating trafficking in human beings. In 2010 we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of this strategic document. Since that time the bulk of the OSCE anti-trafficking commitments developed into a powerful set of tools for the participating States to tackle trafficking in human beings.

Furthermore, several years ago a Code of Conduct was adopted by the OSCE prohibiting and preventing the promotion/facilitation of trafficking in human beings. This experience was cited in the NATO Zero Tolerance policy, and used as an example of best practices to be applied in the military context. In this area, the political will of the participating States has been clearly stated in the Ljubljana Ministerial Decision 16/05 on Ensuring the Highest Standards of Conduct and Accountability of Persons Serving on International Forces and Missions. Its implementation is vital for the effectiveness of these missions in establishing the security of the population in the areas of responsibility.

The Decision recommends measures to address these challenges, for example, in conflict areas by: 1) prioritizing trafficking in human beings training for commanders at all levels, especially at the high level, but also for troops on the ground; and 2) recommending that all troop-contributing countries should undertake serious measures to prevent and punish incidences of trafficking, sexual exploitation, or abuse by personnel regardless of whether prostitution is regulated or tolerated in the troop-contributing country. The OSCE, in co-operation with NATO, contributes to the training of the military at the Partnership-for-Peace Training Centre and co-operates with NATO in providing training for national contingents, upon request, as a part of pre-deployment program.

My Office, in co-operation with the ODIHR, SPMU, OCEEA, the Senior Gender Adviser, and other units of the Secretariat, as well as field operations, engages with and assists participating States in the implementation and advancement of anti-trafficking commitments and recommendations, including the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings,²⁰ a document which remains relevant seven years after its adoption and endorsement by all participating States.

Together with the Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU) we have supported OSCE field missions in organizing anti-trafficking training programmes and joint workshops for police, and provided training for the CIS countries at the International Training Centre on Migration and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Minsk. Additionally, the Special Representative worked with the Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU) and the Borders team in providing training programmes for Border Guards on increasing operational awareness on detecting forged documents in Central Asia and the Balkans, and we are working together with the Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe to develop a training curriculum for

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PC.DEC/557, adopted on 24 July 2003

border officials. Co-operation with the OCEEA included holding a joint Regional Meeting on Combating Human Trafficking and Money Laundering in the Mediterranean Rim Region in 2008 together with UNODC.

International partnership against trafficking in human beings

One of the first steps aimed at improving co-operation between the OSCE and other International Organizations, in line with the Platform for Co-operative Security, was the establishment of the *Alliance against Trafficking in Persons*. All major international and regional organizations working on trafficking in human beings were brought together at the initiative of the first Special Representative in 2004, on the basis of thorough consultations with the delegations of the participating States and Heads of International Organizations active in combating trafficking in human beings. The *Alliance* was welcomed by participating States which is evident in the MC DECISION No. 3/06 and subsequent Decisions. Its annual high level conferences (the 10th Conference on “Unprotected Work, Invisible Exploitation: Trafficking for the Purpose of Domestic Servitude” will be held later this week), seminars and expert meetings, created an OSCE brand of informal and innovative dialogue and networking between the International Organizations, NGOs and participating States, and re-energized the implementation of the **Platform for Co-operative Security**.²¹ Its main partners in combating trafficking in human beings as a part of transnational threats are, *i.a.*, UNODC, Interpol, Europol, NATO, CIS Executive Committee, Council of Europe, and other organizations.

I hope my speech has made clear how trafficking in human beings undermines security as a transnational threat, and how, as an issue which is truly cross-dimensional, with linkages to the other transnational threats, the fight against human trafficking is at the heart of the OSCE. Any nation serious about ending trafficking in human beings has the responsibility to implement the national policies and the wider commitments that we have all taken whether the OSCE Action Plan, or the Palermo Protocol, to address the challenges posed by trafficking all over the OSCE area. I am grateful to the Kazakh chairmanship for placing trafficking in human beings, and particularly child trafficking, high on the agenda this year. I am convinced that there is a further opportunity to place trafficking in human beings on an even more strategic level within OSCE commitments.

In conclusion, these challenges are related to the magnitude of trafficking in human beings as a component of illegal markets generated by organised crime, which is able to exploit the opportunities linked with a globalized economy. This situation requires a proactive approach, aimed at detecting emerging threats for security at the global and regional level.²²

In her inspiring book which will be soon published, Dr. Louise Shelley, a world renowned criminologist, places trafficking in the wide framework of the legacy of the cold war and the conflicts of the 90s. She concludes that trafficking in human beings undermines the principles of a democratic society, the rule of law, and respect for individual rights, international security, state control of borders, and the integrity and success of peacekeeping operation.

²¹ A few examples of *Alliance* Conferences include: Child Trafficking: Responses and Challenges at Local Level” (25-26 May 2008), “Successful Prosecution of THB: Challenges and Good Practices”, and Preventing Trafficking, the *Alliance* Technical Seminar on Trafficking for Labour Exploitation focusing on the Agricultural Sector, and “*Prevention of Modern Slavery: “An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure”* at which there were over 300 participants from 51 capitals (plus two Partners for Co-operation).

²² Mickael Roudaut, *Marches criminelles, un acteur global*, Presse Universitaire de France, 2010.

Yet trafficking has not aroused the consistent global concern that violation of other fundamental rights such as torture, police abuse and discrimination have had in the international arena.²³ This is our common challenge. I look forward to working with all of you and offer my support in this critical effort to improve our common security and to protect human dignity and fundamental rights and freedoms.

²³ Louise Shelley, *Human Trafficking: A Global Perspective* (publication forthcoming).