

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation meeting 2011

**Canadian Statement for the Working Session 17:
Humanitarian issues and other commitments II:
Trafficking in human being**

Thursday, 6 October 2011

Thank you Madam Chairperson,

Canada applauds the on-going efforts made by the OSCE and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights to fight the complex and global problem that is human trafficking.

We also applaud the Resolution on Combatting Labour Trafficking in Supply Chains adopted at the 20th annual session of the Parliamentary Assembly in Belgrade, that will encourage participating States to be more vigilant about the production origin of goods used in the public service.

Canada was happy to receive in August of this year, the OSCE Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, and we gladly welcomed her positive comments on the approach taken by Canada to fight trafficking at home and abroad. This visit provided us with the opportunity to share information on how common challenges can be confronted, and affirmed our commitment to work with civil society and all of our Government's partners to continue protecting victims and prosecuting traffickers.

The prevention and fighting of human trafficking is a Canadian priority. A combination of laws, programmes, policies and projects have been adopted in order to better respond to this pernicious crime. Human trafficking is a multi-faceted and complex issue requiring innovative and multi-lateral solutions. It is through a multi-disciplinary lens that Canada views human trafficking and, accordingly, we are tackling it through a multi-pronged approach that tackles the four 'P's': prevention, partnerships, protection and prosecution. The broad inter-departmental working group on Trafficking in Persons reflects Canada's attention to all aspects of this complex problem. Internationally, Canada believes that a multi-disciplinary approach adopted by all the participating States of the OSCE region could make serious headway in combatting this practice.

Canada also plays an important part in the fighting of human trafficking internationally. Canada was pleased to support the "Human Dimension of Security" project in Eastern Europe in partnership with the OSCE, as well as the European regional program to combat trafficking in persons, an initiative of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the OSCE.

Madam Chairperson, we wish to offer the following recommendations to the OSCE and the participating States within the context of this session:

- We encourage the OSCE to promote the establishment or the strengthening of child protection systems especially addressing children at risk of trafficking including unaccompanied and separated children, asylum seekers and refugee children, and improve the protection of particularly vulnerable children in the OSCE region.
- We urge the participating States to continue to take measures to ensure that trafficked persons are able to access remedies, including the right to seek compensation for damages suffered, as contemplated in the UN Trafficking Protocol.
- We urge the participating States to develop and implement specific anti-trafficking measures but also to integrate anti-trafficking efforts into existing policies and programs.
- Canada would welcome the adoption of a strong Declaration at the Ministerial Meeting later this year.

To succeed in our fight against human trafficking, countries cannot act alone. Only through a sustained, multi-faceted and collaborative effort can we be successful in tackling the human trafficking problem, and prevent it from affecting even more people. This is the comprehensive approach that Canada takes and will continue to take, both domestically and abroad.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.