



Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2018

Working Session 14:

Humanitarian Issues and Other Commitments

Warsaw, 19 September 2018

Declaration of the Delegation of Switzerland

Thank you Mr. Moderator,

Switzerland appreciates the Office of the Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and ODIHRs hard work in combatting human trafficking in the OSCE area and is looking forward to continuing to work closely together in the future. We welcome the excellent tools provided by the OSCE, for example the work in the area of counter trafficking in supply chains that Switzerland is supporting and are **strongly encouraging the development of new strategies and approaches to tackling human trafficking** – especially in a human rights-based, victim-centered and gender sensitive manner.

Humanitarian crisis and armed conflict continues to uproot people thus making them more vulnerable to human trafficking. Children face particular vulnerabilities and represent soft targets for criminal networks and individual traffickers. Displaced, forced on the move, separated from their families, these boys and girls are at risk of falling victim to labor and sexual exploitation, forced marriages, trafficking for organ removal, begging and being coerced into criminal activities. An alarming number simply go missing. Trafficking in women and girls is a form of gender-based violence. **We call upon all participating States to address the particular risks that women and children face the journey from country of origin to country of arrival.**

Once again we want to highlight that the fight against human trafficking needs to focus across all four OSCE pillars of intervention, prevention, prosecution, protection, partnerships.



Prevention: **To increase public awareness and information** to highlight that human trafficking is a social problem that cannot be tolerated, and **raise awareness amongst specialists and provide them with better information** to equip them with greater skills to fight this crime; Knowledge and awareness of trafficking needs to be systematically mainstreamed into the response to humanitarian crisis and armed conflict. Digital technology as a means of prevention.

Prosecution: **To intensify the prosecution of traffickers** as a credible deterrent against human trafficking and to underscore that the exploitation of human beings does not pay off;

Protection: **To improve the identification of victims, and provide better assistance and greater protection** to help alleviate the consequences of the injustice they have suffered, and to help them assert their rights and facilitate their reintegration into society;

Fourth, building comprehensive **partnerships** with all stakeholders and strengthen co-operation is crucial, since only a multidisciplinary, coordinated and joint response can help combat human trafficking. States should not act on their own with regard to the many urgent human rights issues arising from large movements and forced displacement. Only through partnerships among all stakeholders, governments, international organization, civil society and private sector can action-oriented solutions be found. Switzerland is engaged in the international dialogue also in the context of the Global Compacts on Refugees and Migration and other high-level dialogues on this issue.

The OSCE as the biggest regional organization and with its field offices is well placed to fight trafficking across the OSCE region as well as globally in cooperation with other organizations. **Therefore the OSCE should cooperate as closely as possible with UN instances working on the Global Compact in order to bring into the debate the role of regional security organizations when it comes to defining aspects of the nexus between security and large movements of migrants and refugees. Moreover we encourage the relevant OSCE executive structures and field**



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operations to work closely together. The network of field offices can play a key role for a concerted and effective approach.

Thank you.