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United States Mission to the OSCE

**Response to the Special Representative and
Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in
Human Beings,
Maria Grazia Giammarinaro**

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
May 20, 2010

The United States warmly welcomes you, Signora Giammarinaro, to the Permanent Council today. Your report demonstrates the excellent work you do and it is with gratitude that we note the renewed vigor you seek to bring to anti-trafficking efforts within the OSCE region. I'd like to underline the importance you place in your report on stronger political commitment and on raising awareness among the public as a tool to helping prevent the scourge of slavery.

The United States for its part has a strong political commitment combating all forms of human trafficking. In a recent address, U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Monitoring and Combating Trafficking in Persons, Luis CdeBaca, called human trafficking today not purely "a human rights abuse [but] a threat to national security, public health and democracy." Your office plays an important role in combating this fast growing crime that affects communities across the OSCE area. We appreciate your efforts to help participating States meet OSCE anti-trafficking commitments and implement and deepen relevant Action Plan recommendations. We support your efforts against trafficking in persons through the "three P" approach: prosecution, protection and prevention. We also appreciate your office's work in country assessments and hope this will continue.

As you know, one of the key tools that the United States uses in the fight against modern slavery is the annual Trafficking in Persons Report, which will be released by Secretary Clinton in June. This year, for the first time, the United States will be ranked and analyzed using the same standards we apply to all other 175 countries. We expect the report's frank assessment of on-the-ground efforts to lead to discussion and action worldwide and to greater bilateral and multilateral partnerships. Based on the report, the United States government will fund law enforcement training programs, public awareness campaigns, victim shelters and other prevention efforts in countries with the lowest rankings.

Signora Giammarinaro, we commend your research and work on labor exploitation as well as your preparations for the forthcoming Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference on domestic servitude. It is a pleasure to hear that Ambassador CdeBaca will be one of your keynote speakers on June 17. We agree that trafficking for domestic servitude deserves more attention, given the unique vulnerabilities of this isolated and easily abused group. We hope the conference will create political will from governments to increase victim protections and law enforcement efforts for this class of women, men, and children. We note, too, the need for increased attention to the special vulnerability of Romani women and children as potential victims of trafficking in persons.

We also wish to take this opportunity to highlight the important work by the OSCE PA in addressing human trafficking. Earlier this year, the Chair of the U.S. Helsinki Commission

and PA Vice-President, U.S. Senator Benjamin Cardin, and the PAIs Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues, Chris Smith, introduced the Child Protection Compact Act in the U.S. Congress. This Act aims to bring additional financial resources to fighting child trafficking to nations that are eager but financially unable to effectively combat trafficking within their borders.

Special Representative Giammarinaro, we sincerely thank you for your continued efforts to bring an end to human trafficking in the OSCE area and look forward to continued excellent cooperation with you and your able team.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.