

PC.DEL/124/05
22 February 2005

ENGLISH only

To: All Delegations
Secretariat

Please find attached the summary of the meeting of the **Informal Working Group on Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking** held on 21 February 2005.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ambassador Moran", is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ambassador Moran,
Chairperson of the Group

**Summary
of the meeting of the Informal Working Group
on Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking**

21 February 2005

Chairperson: Ambassador Brendan Moran (IRELAND)

Prior to taking up the agenda of that day's meeting, *the Chairperson* noted the valuable contribution made by the previous Chairperson of the Working Group on Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking, Ambassador Mette Kongshem (Norway), to the proceedings of the Working Group (WG). He proceeded to outline the tasks relevant to the WG as set out in MC.DEC/13/04, noting in particular the mandate to elaborate an addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings on addressing the special needs of child victims of trafficking and to contribute to its implementation. He observed that the deadline set by MC.DEC/13/04 for completion of that tasking was 31 July 2005. In addition, he noted that the WG was also guided by the need to implement the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality (MC.DEC/14/04) which identified the need to reflect a gender perspective in the Organization's activities and for the participating States to encourage gender awareness raising and to promote equality in rights and full and equal participation of women and men in society. In that context, he reported that the Chairperson of the Permanent Council had requested that particular attention be given to Paragraphs 44 (c) and 44 (e) (relating to the prevention of violence against women and to the encouragement of women's participation in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict reconstruction) of the 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality. He noted that in the first half of 2005, the WG would focus primarily on the elaboration of the addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, but that would not exclude the WG from also dealing with the implementation of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality. The Chairperson welcomed Ms. Michelle Clark, Chief of the Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit (C/ATAU) and noted that the WG relied on the assistance of the ATAU. *The C/ATAU* noted that she looked forward to the work that lay ahead.

1. The implementation of Sofia Ministerial Decision No.13/04 - "The Special Needs for Child Victims of Trafficking for Protection and Assistance" and the attached Food-for-Thought paper

Noting the distribution of a Food-for-Thought (FFT) paper concerning the elaboration of an addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings (PC.DEL/112/05), *the Chairperson* reminded delegations of the expert-level meeting on assistance and protection of victims of trafficking that would take place on 28 February 2005. He noted the substantial position paper that had been prepared for that meeting and he made particular reference to the section on child victims of trafficking included in that position paper. In addition, remarking upon the broad nature of the issue, he stated that there was a need for the WG to be focussed in its work and that it should focus its efforts on actionable issues that could be implemented. *The Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (SRCTHB)* stated that the work of the ATAU was in line with the taskings set by the Ministerial Council and it would, therefore, focus on combating the trafficking of children. Noting the body of expertise, knowledge and recommendations which already existed in the field, she stated that there was no need to re-engage in work that had already been done, but rather the WG should identify specific measures to implement and should

produce a document that would have practical applications aimed at decision-makers. Noting that some participating States had already developed action plans, she stated that she would like to continue to discuss with the participating States and with experts ways to find appropriate and effective answers to child trafficking and she noted that the forthcoming experts meeting on 28 February 2005 could help in that regard. In addition, she noted that on 18 March 2005, a high-level conference focussing on trafficking in children would take place and it would provide additional information which would assist participating States in dealing with the scope of the problem. She stated that she would like to involve the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and parliamentarians from the European Parliament in the event. She also reported that the Strategic Police Matters Unit would provide expertise with regard to investigating sexual crimes. *The Chairperson* envisaged approximately 5 - 6 meetings of the WG prior to the 31 July 2005 deadline and he hoped that a draft of the addendum could begin following the expert meeting on 28 February.

One delegation wished for the addendum to be a concise and narrowly focussed document which would specifically address the needs of child victims of trafficking. With regard to the FFT paper, it reminded delegations that not all of the OSCE's participating States were party to all of the conventions noted in the paper. Distinguishing between the needs and rights of child victims of trafficking, it believed that it was important to place emphasis on the special needs of child victims. *Another delegation* also hoped that a concise and focussed document could be elaborated and that it should focus on the specific needs of child victims and on what the OSCE could add to the issue. It believed that the National Referral Mechanism contained a useful methodology and that the addendum could be used to export that methodology to other fora. It also suggested that the social inclusion of victims and research on the root causes of the problem should also be addressed. *One delegation*, agreeing that the document should be focussed and concise, stated that a lot of instruments were in existence and that efforts should be made to avoid duplicating the work of other organizations and agreed documents. *The SRCTHB* wondered if delegations envisaged a document that would be similar in structure to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings. *The Chairperson* noted that there were already a number of references to the protection of children in the Action Plan and he suggested that reference to those sections of the AP should be included in the addendum. *One delegation*, again expressing its desire for a narrowly focussed document, believed that the structure used in the AP may not be desirable. *The Chairperson* noted that unanimity appeared to exist concerning the scope of the document. *A Representative of the UNHCR* believed that it would be worth mentioning the protocols relating to refugees. *The Chairperson* noted the suggestion and believed that the expert meeting on 28 February 2005 would produce concrete results for discussion at the next WG meeting.

2. Gender Equality Issues

The Senior Advisor on Gender Issues (SGI) reported that the lack of a Unified Budget for 2005 had resulted in recruitment problems which were limiting work in the area of gender issues. Despite that, she noted that work had begun on the development of a practical framework. She stated that it was unfortunate that the budgetary situation was hampering work in the field given that 2005 was the tenth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. In that context, she noted the number of high-level meetings that were planned to take place over the coming weeks so as to mark that anniversary. She also noted the importance of the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 and, referring to the development of a framework of activities concerning women in conflict prevention, she

reported that the UN had gender units in ten of its peacekeeping missions. In addition, she thanked Sweden for its support.

The Chairperson reminded delegations of the Secretary General's responsibilities as specified in the 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, including the development - prior to 1 October 2005 - of a plan for the implementation of measures for achieving the overall aims of the Action Plan and the presentation to the PC of an annual evaluation report on gender issues in the OSCE in June of each year starting in 2006. In that context, he noted the obligations faced by OSCE institutions, OSCE Field Operations and the OSCE Secretariat. *One delegation* saw the potential of the WG in contributing to the development of civil society and that it could hold a side-event at the next Human Dimension Implementation Meeting which could include NGO representatives. *Another delegation* stated that it would like to see the WG focus on how it could help participating States implement UN Security Council resolution 1325 and it suggested the establishment of a task-force. *A Representative of the OSCE Chairmanship* stated the importance of all participating States feeling ownership of the implementation of the Action Plan and she noted the importance of gender mainstreaming.

3. Any other Business

One delegation informed the WG that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues, Congressman Christopher Smith, would attend the meeting of the PA General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions to be held in the Neuer Saal on 25 February 2005.