



ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΞΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ

Δ' Γενική Διεύθυνση Διεθνών Οργανισμών
και Διεθνούς Ασφαλείας & Συνεργασίας

TASK FORCE
Ελληνικής Προεδρίας ΟΑΣΕ

OSCE
HELLAS2009GREECE



Seminar on Gender-Sensitive Labour Migration Policies

Brdo, 16-17 February 2009

Closing Remarks by

Konstantinos Karamousalis,

OSCE Greek Chairmanship

Dear colleagues and friends,

It is a pleasure for me, as the representative of the OSCE Greek Chairman-in-Office, to close this very interesting two days seminar on Gender Sensitive Labour Migration Policy and to convey on behalf of the Chairmanship our sincere gratitude for your support and active contributions. In our opinion, this is an excellent example of true co-operation between three dimensions, thus highlighting the links between migration, gender and trafficking in human beings. In this regard let me commend the OCEEA, OSR and Gender Section for this initiative and for their efforts to promote a multidimensional perspective, while taking into account the needs and aspirations of migrant women, and the interest of the participating States and Mediterranean partners for cooperation.

Migration is one of the top priorities on the international agenda today along with the economic crisis, climate change and the need to tackle unemployment and underemployment worldwide. We all know that migration presents new socio-economic opportunities, but this process may also be accompany by hardship, human rights violation and security risks for those involved. Migrant women are net contributors of human and financial resources in both countries of origin and destination. Nevertheless, in most instances their significant economic contributions are invisible to our societies, while migrant women may be subject not only to discrimination, but also to labour exploitation.

We have to admit that our efforts to reach a turning point in the elimination of abuse of migrant women while protecting their rights is far from being satisfactory. As such we hope the Guide on

Gender Sensitive Labour Migration Policy will contribute towards concrete changes in the conditions of this target group with a view of achieving equal opportunities so as to ensure that they will be able to exercise and enjoy their rights on an equal basis with their male counterparts. The recommendations which will be considered in the final version of the Guide can in fact contribute to the fulfilment of commitments made by State parties, including the existing OSCE commitments in the field of migration, gender and anti-trafficking.

Dear Colleagues, any society which aims at achieving greater socio-economic development and stability must be fully aware of its potential. As such, we have to create an environment in which equality is our main guiding principle when forging partnership between countries and with migrant communities.

This seminar provides a clear opportunity to reinforce such partnership, and the result of our discussions will undoubtedly help us to advance in the pursuit of integrating a gender perspective when analysing, developing and implementing migration policies within our respective roles. Migration is a complex and inherently global phenomenon, which requires greater cooperation among stakeholders and States at all levels, from local communities to international forums.

Allow me to highlight some of the key points, which emerged from our discussions:

- The development and implementation of migration policies should take into account the needs and interests of all involved parties, that is countries of origin, transit, destination and moreover of migrant women.
- Apart from stimulating the political will of participating states, we should also work hard in the same time so as to promote legally binding international agreements towards the direction of implementing instruments and policies that address the gender sensitive aspects of migration, in the most serious and effective manner.
- The condition sine qua non is the synergy and honest cooperation among all the aforementioned parties and only on the basis of this principle the necessary ground can be found on which all our initiatives and common endeavours can flourish.

Let me reiterate that here in Brdo we have benefited from the broad representation of government representatives, civil society, experts, academia and international organizations. Let us continue to use the results of this gathering to enhance cooperation and exchange of experience and best practices so as to strengthen our capacity to deliver concrete results.

Greece, as holder of the OSCE Chairmanship, understands that migration management, gender and the fight against trafficking in human beings must continue to be a priority for the Organization. The OSCE's can contribute to move the agenda forward through our on-going dialogue, combine with consistent efforts at national level.

We hope that the 17th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum to be held in Athens, 18-20 May will come to symbolize a new level of our commitment in the field of migration management from a truly multi-disciplinary approach. We intend to launch the Guide along with holding a specific session dedicated to this issue in Athens.

The Greek Chairmanship stands ready to support the participating States in their efforts to find appropriate responses to the challenges posed by migration and the fight against trafficking in human beings, while striving to achieve gender equality. Furthermore, the Chairmanship will be bringing to the attention of the other structures and field presences the results of this initiative, so as to increase the visibility and common efforts concerning this issue within the OSCE agenda.

In conclusion, let me wish you continuous success in your future endeavours back home and we hope to see you in Athens at the Forum in May.

Thank you very much for your attention.