



OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Warsaw, 26 September to 7 October 2011

Statement of the Swiss Delegation (check against delivery!)

**Working Session 17: Humanitarian issues and other commitments II
Trafficking in human beings**

Madam / Mister Chair,

A successful policy in the combat of trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation requires the involvement of a broad range of actors, including State agencies (such as labour inspection agencies, anti-trafficking co-ordinators, law enforcement agents, social services), social partners (such as trade unions and employers' organizations) and civil society. The Madrid Ministerial Council Decision 8/07 underpins this multidisciplinary, co-operative approach. We therefore welcome the efforts of the OSCE Secretariat and Institutions to offer tools and platforms for a best practice exchange with regard to this phenomenon.

Switzerland is currently re-enforcing its efforts against labour exploitation and related trafficking activities.

In June 2011 the Federal Council adopted an ordinance to protect personnel in diplomatic households (examples of this ordinance can be found outside this plenary room). The ordinance applies to the private household employees of members of foreign diplomatic representations and those of officials of international organisations, whose employers are beneficiaries of privileges, immunities and facilities in Switzerland. The new ordinance introduces, for example, a mandatory written contract of employment based on a model contract of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. Moreover, employees must appear in person at the Swiss representation to obtain their visa and are duly informed about the conditions of their working relations.

The tasks of enforcing the new ordinance and monitoring the application of the provisions therein still represent a certain challenge.

Recommendations:

Trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation is a hidden phenomenon. We therefore recommend that the OSCE participating States, the OSCE Secretariat, institutions and field operations further strengthen their efforts by:

1. continuing and improving data collection and analysis on labour exploitation in general, and the exploitation of domestic workers in particular;
2. upholding the regional exchange on trends and patterns of these forms of trafficking in persons in order to improve measures to combat the crime; and
3. supporting receiving countries in their efforts to enforce the rules and protect the rights of domestic workers in diplomatic households.

Switzerland would welcome the re-enforcement of the OSCE commitments in the area of labour exploitation and domestic servitude, including within the context of diplomatic households, by ways of a Ministerial Council Decision.

Thank you, Madam / Mister Chair.