

WORKING GROUP C

ENGLISH only

22 May 2003

Report of the Working Group Rapporteur

Agenda item 8: Anti-trafficking and the OSCE

- (a) **Tuning into the OSCE as a forum for the commitment of participating States and the co-operation with international organizations**
 - (b) **Tuning into the role of the OSCE institutions, field offices and the co-ordination mechanisms required for a comprehensive approach to combat trafficking**
-

Introduction to the Working Group

Working Group C consisted of two sub-sessions. The first sub-session focused on the OSCE as a forum for the commitment of participating States and co-operation with international organizations. Mr. Robert Templer of the International Crisis Group presented a working paper in which he analysed the situation in Central Asia with respect to trafficking and identified possible OSCE contributions. Mr. Frank van Beuningen of the Delegation of the Netherlands informed participants about suggestions included in the country reports submitted by some of the participating States. The second sub-session dealt with the role of the OSCE institutions and field offices and the co-ordination mechanisms required for a comprehensive approach to combat trafficking.

First sub-session: "Tuning into the OSCE as a forum for the commitment of participating States and the co-operation with international organizations"

There was wide-spread agreement among delegations that - in the long term as well as in the short term - there was an important role for the OSCE to play in the fight against trafficking. All delegations felt there was an urgent need for action. Trafficking affected the security of all participating States. A comprehensive approach would have to be multi-dimensional and should take into account both supply and demand-related factors. Successful action would also have to address the underlying causes. The Organization's efforts to resolve conflicts in the OSCE area might make an important contribution to preventing trafficking. OSCE activities in the economic and environmental dimension should take into account the notion of good governance. The OSCE could contribute both through direct action and through functioning as a catalyst. The importance of sufficient financial and personnel resources was underlined by several delegations.

Many delegations emphasized in their statements the contribution which the OSCE could make as a forum for consultation among participating States and between them and international organizations. The OSCE could also facilitate international co-operation, e.g., in the policing field. A delegation underlined the need not to stigmatize, but rather to encourage,

participating States who openly admitted to problems in the field of trafficking. The OSCE should also be instrumental in building political commitment, in particular through awareness raising. The importance of the Action Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings was emphasized. The Parliamentary Assembly and its members should be involved to facilitate the drafting and adoption of legislation in participating States. A Special Representative of the Chairman-in-Office might also be instrumental in a successful fight against trafficking.

Delegations emphasized the need to avoid duplication and rivalry with other international organizations. Good co-ordination with other actors involved in the fight against trafficking was necessary in order to make full use of synergies. Appropriate attention should be given to the involvement of civil society and to gender issues.

A number of concrete suggestions were made among which were the following:

- The OSCE should build up greater expertise in the field of trafficking and intensify efforts to understand the dimensions of this phenomenon;
- Analysis of best practices and elaboration of a best practice guide to assist participating States in the fight against trafficking;
- Strengthening the co-operation between governments and the business community, e.g., through the formulation of a Code of Conduct for businesses;
- A system of trafficking telephone hotlines;
- Strengthening border management and law enforcement activities;
- Strengthening the OSCE's lead role in the field of small arms and light weapons (SALW);
- Assistance to participating States in drafting legislation governing trafficking-related fields;
- Improving victim protection;
- Strengthening the monitoring of compliance with commitments undertaken by participating States.

Second sub-session: “Tuning into the role of the OSCE institutions, field offices and the co-ordination mechanisms required for a comprehensive approach to combat trafficking”

Many delegations stressed the need for better co-ordination of OSCE activities. This applied in particular to the relationship between various OSCE institutions, e.g., the ODIHR, the Strategic Police Matters Unit and the Office of the Co-ordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities, but also to co-operation with other actors, such as international organizations and financial institutions. The responsibility for this rested with the Chairman-in-Office and the Secretariat. In this context many delegations emphasized the good co-operation with the South-Eastern Europe Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in

Human Beings and its excellent performance. The approach of the Task Force might also be employed in other parts of the OSCE area.

Many delegations underlined the important role of the OSCE field missions. Several delegations, however, felt that - keeping in mind that all participating States were affected by trafficking- the OSCE should not limit its activities to participating States where it had missions. The concept of a roving or thematic mission was discussed and received considerable support. In this context, there was a discussion on the inclusion of trafficking-related activities in the mandates for OSCE field missions. While some delegations supported the inclusion of trafficking either explicitly or implicitly, one delegation cautioned that this was unnecessary. Another delegation underscored the importance of mandates as the basis for all mission activities.

Delegations expressed an interest in further discussing the proposal of the Chairman-in-Office to establish a Special Representative on Trafficking. Some delegations endorsed this proposal, others felt that such a special representative could be instrumental in keeping the issue on the agenda and in translating the political will of participating States into concrete action. Others, however, were cautious and felt that the OSCE should improve existing structures and institutions before creating new mechanisms.