



**Speech of Mr Sandeep Chawla, Deputy Executive Director of
the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to the joint
OSCE/UNODC Seminar**

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As delivered

**Chairman, Secretary General of the OSCE, Assembled
Experts, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am very pleased to be representing UNODC at the opening of this seminar jointly organized by our two organizations. It is a symbol of the cooperative spirit from which we have benefited in our many joint activities.

Mr Lamberto Zannier, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment. UNODC looks forward to continue developing with you, the strong partnership which already exists between our two organizations.

Please allow me to thank Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the Office of the Co-ordinator of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities represented by Alexey Stukalo, and the Strategic Police Matters Unit, who have all been instrumental in the development of this seminar. Your invaluable work helps us all.

Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants are global challenges demanding a global response, strong partnerships and the commitment and engagement of all sectors. Only through international cooperation can we stop criminals making enormous



profits from the exploitation of human beings and from risks – often deadly – imposed on the safety and lives of migrants.

Smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons are often described as ‘high profit, low risk’ crimes because of the large amounts of money they generate and the difficulties surrounding their detection by law enforcement agencies.

Traffickers and smugglers will obviously seek to conceal or launder the profits made from their crime because they can be used as evidence of their criminal activities. Money laundering is therefore an important (and often overlooked) element of the crimes of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.

Ladies and Gentlemen, There is limited knowledge about the methods that are used by criminal organisations to launder the illegal proceeds of these crimes.

The focus of this seminar is therefore on pulling together the resources of agents combating trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants with those combating money laundering to secure efficient, effective and preventative action.

Confiscation of the proceeds of crime through seizure and forfeiture is a powerful approach to both tackling and preventing organised crime and can be applied to human trafficking and smuggling of migrants investigations through the initiation of a financial investigation. Financial investigations aim to detect and identify the proceeds of crime and can lead investigators to the upper management of criminal organizations.

Following a financial investigation, a confiscation of the proceeds of crime can disrupt and dismantle criminal organisations and disempower individual criminals.



A financial investigation thus helps prevent crime and corruption, removes access by criminals to “capital” to finance further crime, targets the managers of crime and supports the rule of law.

Wherever possible, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants investigators should contact existing financial investigators for support and advice.

This is one of the goals of this seminar: bringing together those holding essential intelligence information to ensure cooperation and coordination.

To take the example of the Training Manuals of UNODC, a focus is placed on the need for financial investigations. It is recommended that they start at the same time as the criminal investigation. If specialist financial investigative analysis is not available, investigators should, at a minimum, recover records enabling a more comprehensive investigation and analysis.

Criminal assets must be assessed from the outset of an investigation. If they are not, it may not be possible for a judicial confiscation order to be made at the end of an investigation.

Training manuals are an essential part of capacity building, yet exchange of experience in seminars like this one enable better cooperation in practice and thus a greater impact on the ground.

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Experts, this seminar paves the way to more effective and efficient investigations in the crimes of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. It is based on the fact that cooperation among all stakeholders – intergovernmental



organizations, national authorities, private sector, civil society – is essential.

And I dare say that the next two days will be very fruitful.

Thank you.