

OSCE HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING 2006

**CANADIAN STATEMENT FOR THE WORKING SESSION 2: ADDRESSING
FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE CYCLE OF TRAFFICKED PERSONS
3 OCTOBER 2006
WARSAW**

Thank you, Madame Moderator.

Canada commends OSCE's efforts to combat human trafficking. We encourage improved coordination and consolidation of anti-human trafficking work among the OSCE Secretariat, institutions and missions, including relevant NGOs, as well as a focus on providing assistance to participating States in this area.

While we are highly appreciative of the OSCE's efforts in combating trafficking, we recognize that this activity is a global phenomenon that reaches beyond the OSCE area.

Canada is a committed party to the UN Convention against transnational organized crime and its trafficking and smuggling protocols. We strongly urge all of our OSCE partners to ratify these important global instruments and to ensure that any new regional instruments remain compatible with the principle of the convention and the protocols.

This session is the time for participating States to show results relative to the implementation of OSCE commitments on the identification and protection of trafficked persons.

We are pleased to say that Canada has made significant progress on combating human trafficking.

First, over the past year, we have strengthened our criminal law response through the enactment of new indictable offences which specifically prohibit trafficking in persons: receiving financial or other material benefit from the trafficking of a person,

or the withholding or destruction of a person's travel or identification documents. These new offences can be used by law enforcement authorities to address this crime.

Second, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's established a Human Trafficking National Coordination Center designed to facilitate human trafficking investigations and help protect victims.

Third, in 2006, the Government of Canada also announced measures to strengthen Canada's response to the unique need of victims of human trafficking. Working within Canada's existing legislative framework, guidelines have been created to assist immigration officers to provide legal immigration status to victims of trafficking in persons. This gives the victims access to health-care under the Interim Federal Health.

Fourth, to increase awareness, Canada has developed public awareness and training materials including a website, anti-trafficking posters and pamphlets and a law enforcement training video.

Internationally, we support prevention and awareness-raising efforts of the risks of human trafficking in source countries, through funding mechanisms such as the human security program at Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada. Further, the Canadian International Development Agency recently provided a grant to ODIHR to support awareness-raising activities, researching the scope of the problem and identifying and providing assistance to victims, largely in the Balkan area.

All these measures further reinforce Canada's three pillared response to TIP, focussed on prevention, prosecution and protection.

Canada will continue to work with our partners, including the provinces, territories and civil society, to better respond to the unique needs of trafficked persons.

Thank you, Madame Moderator.