

## **Statement of the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

### **Working session 8**

*27 September, 2012*

#### **Humanitarian issues and other commitments (continued) including:**

- *Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings*

Recent years struggle against human trafficking has become one of the major directions of the internal policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan. After the implementation of National Action Plan on Struggle against Human Trafficking adopted in 2004 was completed, in order to continue the activities against human trafficking, as well as to increase the effectiveness of the work of state bodies a new Action Plan against Human Trafficking for 2009-2013 was adopted and currently is underway.

In accordance with the new Action Plan Azerbaijan attaches great importance to bilateral and multilateral cooperation as well as to cooperation with NGO's in struggle against human trafficking. In this regard, Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the State Department on Struggle against Human Trafficking and Coalition of NGO's against human trafficking, which include more than 40 NGO's. In accordance with the above mentioned memorandum special trainings and seminars are organized in different regions of Azerbaijan in order to raise the awareness of population about human trafficking and forced labour.

In order to more intensify the struggle against human trafficking in 2010 Azerbaijan joined the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Beings.

Azerbaijan has established effective cooperation with international organizations namely UN, OSCE, Council of Europe, International Organization for Migration, International Labour Organization, International Centre for Migration Department and others.

Moreover, Azerbaijan pays attention to improvement of its domestic legislation and improvement of the situation of victims of human trafficking. For example, for recent years allowance for the victims of human trafficking has been raised for several times. Besides, shelters and assistance centers were established for the victims of human trafficking, which provide them with food, medication, medical, psychological, social

and legal assistance. The anonymity of victims is secured. At the same time, protection and assistance of victims of human trafficking of foreign nationals and stateless persons are provided on an equal basis with Azerbaijani nationals.

Besides, all above mentioned we believe more can be done and are ready to deepen our cooperation with international organizations to have more positive improvements.

Thank you!