



## **Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**

### **9th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons conference**

**Prevention of Modern Slavery: "An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure"  
Vienna, 14-15 September 2009**

#### **CLOSING STATEMENT**

**by M.Jarbussynova, Ambassador-at-large,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

**Dear Madam Special Representative,  
Ladies and Gentlemen!**

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to the organizers of this ninth Alliance Against Trafficking in Persons Conference and OSCE Special Representative for Combating Trafficking of Human Beings **Eva Biaudet** especially.

I truly appreciate the extended honor and privilege to address the participants of the Conference on behalf of the Republic of Kazakhstan - the 2010 OSCE Chair-in Office.

The Conference has gathered here high-level representatives of all 56 OSCE participating states, Partners for Co-operation, NGOs, and International organizations and has provided a good forum for exchange of opinions and experience.

Well-thought and interesting agenda for these last two days included high professional presentations of national and international experts, the film screening, the photo exhibition and raised discussions among participants leaving no one uninvolved. And I would like to congratulate You, Madam and Your team on the achieved results and thank you once again for your hard work, your commitment and all the arrangements in the frame work of the Conference.

All those who spoke at this Conference acknowledged, that trafficking in human beings is a modern day slavery with a truly unbounded, large-scale

character, demanding close international attention, special control from national governments, civil society and international community as a whole.

As it was underlined in US Secretary of State .Hilary Clinton`s video address – “Trafficking weakens legitimate economies, breaks up families, fuels violence, undermines our efforts to promote peace, prosperity and human right worldwide”.

Once again we, the participants of the Conference, have agreed, that human trafficking is a multidimensional threat with a direct effect upon the fates of many. It is a form of modern slavery entailing some of the most blatant and cruel human rights violations. And as we express the hope for the joint efforts of the international community and the development of effective national and international mechanisms aimed to eradicate the causes of the stated phenomenon, we would like to affirm the fact that effective measures of preemptive nature can and do serve as real means of eradication of all forms of slavery. **In fact**, this belief is attested by the title of the Conference – «An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure».

That is why we should essentially focus on prevention which is such a broad issue closely interlinked with all other so-called three P`s, that it is hard to differentiate (as OCSE Secretary General stated in his opening remarks) “between prevention us such and the preventive effect of adequate prosecution, or the prevention of re-trafficking by providing adequate protection to the victims”.

Being a transnational threat, trafficking for sure requires cooperation among participating states and partnership with all international stakeholders. But it is evident that national governments, first of all, should address this problem, demonstrating comprehensive, cross-dimensional approach. It requires broad awareness-raising, good governance, creation of better economic conditions, fight against corruption, zero tolerance for exploitation and discrimination etc.

Kazakhstan realized the existence of this problem in late 90-s and took significant steps to combat this evil. Because of its socio-economic development, geographic and geopolitical location Kazakhstan has entered the list of countries

entailed into the human trafficking process, being a country of origin and transit of human trafficking. There are a number of facts construing this phenomenon:

**Firstly** – the openness and magnitude of Kazakhstan’s borders with neighbouring CIS countries;

**Secondly** – the intensification of migration flows among adjacent states and within the Republic;

**Thirdly** – Kazakhstan’s economy, despite the ongoing global financial crisis, produces comparatively better wages than those in some of the countries in the region;

**Fourthly** – globalization of the organized crime and extension of its capabilities in setting up sustainable delivery routes of «living commodity», positions any country as a supplier, a customer and a transit corridor;

**Fifthly** – it is a socio-political instability in the countries of illegal migrants’ origin, consequences of war, armed conflicts, and internal political struggle in some of the countries of Asia, Far and Middle East, the growing activities of terrorists, and religious-extremist organizations.

Developed human trafficking routes are stretched out from Kazakhstan to the Republic of Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Israel and, less frequently, to Greece. According to data this is a highly profitable type of criminal activity - a person can be resold dozens of times as long as he or she is alive.

The latest tendencies show that Kazakhstan is rapidly moving towards becoming a country of human trafficking destination. In particular, this became evident during the pre-financial crisis period of our fast paced economic growth. The demand was formed by those who provide and utilize either sexual services or free labour. The buyers are formed by the owners of construction sites, farming households and ordinary businessmen. Virtually, there are very few branches of economy, where such labour services cannot be utilized.

Clearly, few or maybe even no country can rightfully claim that it has overcome the problem of human trafficking. Due to the fact that capabilities of countries to combat human trafficking and the magnitudes of these problems

within each country are unequal, the degree of human trafficking combating effectiveness varies. However, this is a universal problem and that is why it must be dealt jointly.

In this context I would like to mention the OSCE Action Plan – as one of the key document providing the framework for the anti-trafficking efforts. Implementation of our political commitments to eliminate the root causes of trafficking should help to prevent many of those vulnerable from taking desperate decisions leaving to enslavement.

Ladies and Gentlemen, saying this I would like to inform the audience that my Government has elaborated and adopted the Action Plan aimed to combat, preclude and prevent crimes related to human trafficking for 2009-2011. It conforms to three primary components of the OSCE recommendations: prosecution of criminals, protection of victims of trafficking and prevention.

As far as prevention is concerned I would like to draw your attention to the activities of the Intergovernmental commission which was established under the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan six years (in 2003) ago to combat human trafficking. The Commission's activities have been focused at the work of law enforcement agencies, organization of training seminars, programs and workshops in universities and other educational institutions, monitoring of labor induced migration of foreign citizens to the Republic, inspection of travel agencies' work, provision of assistance and rehabilitation of human trafficking victims by civil and state bodies, it also raises awareness through media on the undertaken measures.

Significant work has been done to improve Kazakhstan's legislation in the sphere of human trafficking, and to bring legislative norms of the Republic of Kazakhstan in compliance to international standards. Special legislative norms were introduced to the legislation, providing harsh criminal liability for trafficking in persons. As a result during 12 months of 2008 following actions were brought on statues of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan:

- **15** criminal cases for human trafficking;

- **5** for trafficking of underage persons;
- **8** for unlawful deprivation of freedom for the purpose of exploitation;
- **4** for kidnapping for the purpose of exploitation;
- **11** for predisposition towards prostitution;
- **50** were identified as victims, **14** of which were in labour exploitation, **36** in sex exploitation;
- 25 individuals were sentenced;
- Actions were brought on 227 criminal cases for maintaining of brothels.

All undertaken measures have made it possible for independent international experts to positively assess the efforts of Kazakh authorities to combat trafficking.

In general, due to the ongoing global financial crisis, the issue of human trafficking demands adoption of necessary measures to decrease the vulnerability of people to this threat. In their search for better life and jobs people are compelled to leave their permanent places of living, travel beyond their region and even country. That is why creation of jobs on conditions of partial employment for long term basis for women and youth, as the most vulnerable social groups on the jobs market, should become one of the important directions in the work of governments. Thus, at present Kazakhstan has been implementing a «Road map» with the main goal to significantly lower the level of unemployment, which is one of the preventive measures in counteraction of the human trafficking.

To make our fight against trafficking in persons more successful we should more effectively target the criminals and the people profiting and benefiting from the exploitation, whether it is sexual or labour. We all know that the criminal system of human trafficking is improving from year to year all around the world. The newly developed and improved recruiting techniques are appearing, leading to the need to develop and improve our counteractive measures. That's why it is necessary for all the states to implement adopted conventions and protocols at appropriate levels, establish special governmental agencies, support activities of appropriate NGOs and conclude bilateral agreements.

I would also like to support the efforts of the office of the OSCE special Representative to establish National Rapporteurs or equivalent mechanism of effective prevention of human trafficking.

On its part, as the upcoming OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Kazakhstan will fully facilitate subsequent resolution of this problem.

Despite the fact that any well organized Conference is not a practical combating tool, however, undoubtedly, it is one of the constituent preventive measures!

Let us hope that our efforts will become a catalyst in the final resolution of this problem.

I wish all of us fruitful work in this direction and encourage all states to do everything possible to resolve the issue.

**Thank you for your kind attention!**