



Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2017

Working Session 11:

Humanitarian Issues and Other Commitments

Warsaw, 18 September 2017

Declaration of the Delegation of Switzerland

Mr. Moderator,

Humanitarian crisis and armed conflict pose particular challenges to the fight against human trafficking. Humanitarian actors are increasingly confronted with trafficking and have a role to play in prevention and protection. However, studies show that humanitarian response does not always sufficiently take into consideration trafficking in persons. Knowledge and awareness of trafficking needs to be systematically mainstreamed into the response to humanitarian crisis and situations of armed conflict.

Forced displacement and migration create particular vulnerabilities and opportunities for trafficking and exploitation, including labour exploitation: loss of livelihood; lack of legal access to the labour market and expensive fees for smugglers are only a few possible root causes. We need to involve the private sector as well as civil society organizations in the development of strategies and actions to prevent trafficking and labour exploitation.

A year ago, heads of States and governments met in New York at the high-level summit on large movements of refugees and migrants. Recognizing that the international community is not sufficiently prepared to respond to such movements, it was decided to develop two global compacts in order to strengthen our response in the future, one focusing on refugees and one on safe, orderly and regular migration.



In developing these compacts it will be crucial to ensure that those persons forced to flee but not covered by the 1951 Refugee Convention, such as those displaced in the context of disaster, are not left behind. We call upon all States to join the efforts in finding a way to adequately and coherently address forced displacement in the global compacts.

Also nearly one year ago, the OSCE Ministerial Council adopted its decision 3/16 on “OSCE’s Role in the Governance of Large movements of Migrants and Refugees”. This decision embedded the topic into the OSCE’s approach of comprehensive security. Indeed there is a nexus between security and global and/or regional governance of large movements of migrants and refugees. This nexus must be better understood and adequate measures addressing it must be implemented.

The Report of 27 July 2016 by the Chairperson of the “IWG Focusing on the Issue of Migration and Refugee Flows” contains proposals for a methodological approach to set up a responsible governance of the phenomenon. It also contains 50 recommendations to the Executive structures of the OSCE, in order for our Organization to find its niche and its added value in the international governance of large movements of migrants and refugees.

Recommendations:

1. The OSCE should cooperate as closely as possible with UN instances working on the Global Compact in order to bring into the debate the role of regional security organizations when it comes to defining aspects of the nexus between security and large movements of migrants and refugees.
2. The OSCE and its participating States should also bring into the debate their expertise on issues that are specific to the migration routes on land and sea leading into different countries and regions of the OSCE area.



3. We invite the incoming Italian OSCE Chairmanship to revitalize the OSCE's work on the governance of large movements of migrants and refugees. It should do so based on the MC Decision 3/16 on "OSCE's Role in the Governance of Large movements of Migrants and Refugees", as well as on recommendations of the Report of 27 July 2016 by the Chairperson of the "IWG Focusing on the Issue of Migration and Refugee Flows".

Thank you.