



Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe



UNODC
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**Expert Seminar on Leveraging Anti-Money Laundering Regimes
to Combat Human Trafficking”**

Opening remarks by

Mr. Alexey Stukalo

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Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities**

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, I would like to join the previous speakers in welcoming you all to this important seminar.

Our Office co-operates with many countries and organizations in building the capacity of states to leverage anti-money laundering tools to fight crimes such as human trafficking. This work is a key component of the Office’s good governance programme, which focuses on combating corruption, money laundering, and the financing of terrorism. Support for these activities among the participating States has been growing steadily. This is evidenced by the support we received from the Lithuanian Chairmanship this year, and in the incoming Irish Chairmanship’s decision to focus on good governance during the 2012 OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum process.

This seminar is relevant to all of the areas the OCEEA is active in anti-money laundering, in that it will contribute to:

- 1) a better understanding of the risk of human trafficking as a predicate offense to money laundering
- 2) identifying best practices and gaps in inter-agency co-operation
- 3) building the capacity of states to conduct financial investigations of human trafficking activity
- 4) increasing the capacity of countries to effectively exchange information, and

- 5) working not only with governments and international organizations, but also with the private sector and civil society to maximize effectiveness.

Let me use this opportunity to call your attention to an extra-budgetary project my Office is managing, a project which is in direct support of the objectives of this seminar. We are reaching out to the delegations to support us in publishing the findings of this seminar as a tool for practitioners with responsibility for conducting financial investigations of human trafficking cases.

We thank those participating States that have already submitted case studies on the use of financial investigations of human trafficking activities, and I would like to invite all the other participating States to send us case studies for inclusion in the publication, which we believe will significantly advance the body of knowledge on the financial aspects of human trafficking.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The three OSCE units are exploring a unique format of this seminar. The organizers have programmed time for prepared statements by the delegations during the afternoon sessions today. During tomorrow's roundtables, however, the organizers are requesting that written questions be submitted to the panels to maximize this great opportunity to engage a broad range of experts on a very specific topic.

I wish all of us a fruitful discussion. It would be great if we could make a step further, even a half step, to the analysis provided by the July 2011 FATF Report, on money laundering techniques of traffickers in human beings.

Thank you.