



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Office of the Secretary General
Section for External Co-operation



2013 OSCE-Australia Conference
Improving the Security of Women and Girls
Adelaide, Australia, 18 – 19 March 2013



Consolidated Summary

Table of contents

1	General information	3
1.1	Venue	3
1.2	Participation	3
1.3	Timetable and organizational modalities	3
1.4	Agenda	4
2	Summary of the opening session	8
3	Reports by session rapporteurs	11
3.1	Session 1: Combating gender-based violence against women and girls	11
3.2	Session 2: Economic empowerment of women	14
3.3	Session 3: Combating all forms of human trafficking	17
4	Summary of the closing session	19
5	List of participants	21

1 General information

1.1 Venue

The Conference was held on 18 and 19 March 2013, at the Adelaide Convention Centre, North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000, Australia.

1.2 Participation^{*)}

1.2.1 Sixteen OSCE participating States, including Ireland/EU, took part in the Conference.

1.2.2 All the Asian Partners for Co-operation (Afghanistan, Australia, Japan, Korea and Thailand) were represented.

1.2.3 The OSCE Secretariat and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) were represented.

1.2.4 At the invitation of the host country, the following guests took part in the Conference: Ghana, the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries (TURKPA), and the West AreAre Rokotanikeni Association (WARA).

1.2.5 The following international organizations were represented: the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

1.2.6 Representatives of civil society and academia were able to attend and contribute to the Conference in accordance with the relevant OSCE provisions and practices.

1.3 Timetable and organizational modalities

1.3.1 The Conference began at 9.15 a.m. (opening session) on 28 March 2013 and ended at 1.00 p.m. on 29 March 2013.

1.3.2 The Conference was conducted in three thematic sessions.

1.3.3 The opening session was chaired by **H.E. Ambassador Penny Williams**, Australian Global Ambassador for Women and Girls, and the closing session by **H.E. Ambassador Ihor Prokopchuk**, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the OSCE and Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office.

1.3.4 Each session had a moderator and a rapporteur.

1.3.5 The working language was English.

1.3.6 Arrangements were made for press coverage.

1.3.7 The rules of procedure and working methods of the OSCE were applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Conference.

^{*)} See part 5, list of participants.

1.4 Agenda

Monday, 18 March 2013

8.15–9.00 a.m. Registration of participants

9-9.15 a.m. Welcome to Country ceremony

9.15–10 a.m. Opening session

Chairperson: **H.E. Ambassador Penny Williams**, Australian Global Ambassador for Women and Girls

- **H.E. Ambassador Ihor Prokopchuk**, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the OSCE and Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office
- **H.E. Ambassador Eoin O’Leary**, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the OSCE and Chairperson of the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation
- **H.E. Ambassador Lamberto Zannier**, Secretary General of the OSCE – video statement

10–10.30 a.m. Group photograph and coffee break

10.30 a.m.–1 p.m. Combating gender-based violence against women and girls

Moderator: **H.E. Ambassador Tacan Ildem**, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the OSCE and Chair of the OSCE Security Committee

Rapporteur: **Ms. Janice Helwig**, Policy Advisor, Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (US Helsinki Commission)

This session focused on:

- Prevention of gender-based violence against women and girls: implementing the rule of law;
- Protecting refugees and internally displaced women and girls from gender-based violence;
- Exploitation of women for terrorist purposes.

Speakers

- **Mr. Brian Glynn**, Head, Conflict Resolution Unit/OSCE Taskforce, Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

- **Dr. Alan Ryan**, Executive Director, Australian Civil-Military Centre
- **Ms. Sirpa Rautio**, Director, Human Rights Centre of Finland
- **Dr. Alice Pollard**, Director of the West AreAre Rokotanikeni Association

Discussion

Conclusions and remarks by the moderator

1–2.30 p.m.

Lunch, hosted by the OSCE Secretary General

2.30–5 p.m.

Economic empowerment of women

Moderator: **H.E. Ambassador Ol'ga Algayerová**, Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the OSCE, Chair of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Committee

Rapporteur: **Ms. Kaja Glomm**, Deputy Head of Mission, Royal Norwegian Embassy Canberra

This session focused on:

- Empowering women as decision-makers;
- Promoting women's entrepreneurship;
- The link between the national economy and gender equality.

Speakers

- **H.E. Ambassador Miroslava Beham**, OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues
- **Ms. Khatija Thomas**, South Australian Government Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement
- **Mr. Takeshi Hikihara**, Deputy Director-General, European Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
- **Mr. Kang Jeong-sik**, Deputy Director General for International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea

Discussion

Conclusions and remarks by the moderator

6.15 p.m.

Bus transfer from Adelaide InterContinental to National Wine Centre

6.30 – 10.30 p.m. Welcome Dinner, hosted by **H.E. Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR**, Governor of South Australia.

Tuesday, 19 March 2013

9–11.30 a.m. Combating all forms of human trafficking

Moderator: **Associate Professor Jennifer Burn**, Director, Anti-Slavery Australia

Rapporteur: **Alexander Chapman**, Desk Officer, Northern, Southern and Eastern Europe Branch, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

This session focused on:

- Combating all forms of trafficking in human beings: Lessons learned and emerging challenges – Asia-Pacific perspectives;
- Impact of anti-trafficking policies on the human rights of vulnerable and trafficked persons, especially women and girls;
- The connection between economic growth and trafficking of women and girls – increase or decrease?

Speakers

- **Dr. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro**, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
- **Mr. Douglas Wake**, First Deputy Director, OSCE/ODIHR
- **Professor Chaikasem Nitisiri**, Chairman, Thailand Institute for Justice

Discussion

Conclusions and remarks by the moderator

11.30 –11.45 a.m. Coffee break

11.45 a.m. –1 p.m. Closing session

Chairperson: **H.E. Ambassador Ihor Prokopchuk**

Discussion and assessment of the OSCE Asian dialogue

Concluding statement by **Mr. Jeff Roach**, Assistant Secretary,
Northern, Southern and Eastern Europe Branch, Department of Foreign
Affairs and Trade of Australia

Concluding statement by **H.E. Ambassador Eoin O’Leary**,
Permanent Representative of Ireland to the OSCE and Chairperson of
the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation

1 p.m.

End of Conference

1 – 2.30 p.m.

Lunch, hosted by the OSCE Secretariat

2 Summary of the opening session

Report by Alexander Krez, External Co-operation Officer, OSCE Secretariat

The opening session was chaired by **H.E. Ambassador Penny Williams**, Australian Global Ambassador for Women and Girls. Opening remarks were delivered by **H.E. Ambassador Ihor Prokopchuk**, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the OSCE and Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, **H.E. Ambassador Eoin O’Leary**, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the OSCE and Chairperson of the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation, and **H.E. Ambassador Lamberto Zannier**, Secretary General of the OSCE (video statement).

H.E. Ambassador Penny Williams, Australian Global Ambassador for Women and Girls, welcomed the international guests and expressed her respect for the cultural heritage of the Kurna people on whose territory the Conference was taking place. She noted that the fifty-seventh Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) had also focused on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls, and expressed confidence that the present Conference would contribute to a growing momentum to address these long-standing challenges. Ambassador Williams underlined Australia’s strong and well-established commitment to gender equality and the fact that its agenda on women, peace and security remained a key priority. As a member of the Security Council, Australia would have a direct hand in shaping solutions to security challenges over the next two years and would pursue a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to gender concerns. Priorities would include ending impunity for perpetrators of sexual violence and addressing the impact of conflict on women and girls in peacekeeping and peace-building operations, thus reflecting Australia’s National Action Plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325.

Ambassador Williams emphasized that in Australia, where a woman is killed almost every week by a male partner or ex-partner, providing safe environments for women within and beyond conflict situations constituted a main priority. She further stressed that violence against women was also a threat to democracy, a barrier to lasting peace, a burden on national economies, and an appalling human rights violation. In order to address this issue, Australia had launched partnerships with Afghanistan, Cambodia, Papua New Guinea and Indonesia, as well as a major ten-year Pacific-wide programme. Additionally, Australia’s 320-million-dollar initiative Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development would seek to improve women’s and girls’ safety and increase their participation and improve their economic standing. In connection with women’s economic empowerment, Ambassador Williams quoted figures on the impact of women’s increased participation in the economy, and stressed Australia’s engagement in this area through, *inter alia*, the annual APEC Women and the Economy Forum and support for UN programmes. With reference to the third session of the Conference she noted that while opportunities for trafficking in human beings in Australia remained relatively low due to the country’s geographic isolation and strong border controls, trafficking in human beings in the Asia-Pacific region affected 55 per cent of all trafficked people worldwide, of whom women and girls made up two thirds. She valued the achievements of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, which Australia co-chaired with Indonesia, and of the East Asia Summit of November 2012, at which Australia’s Prime Minister announced the Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons (AAPTIP).

Ambassador Williams concluded by commending the OSCE for its achievements in addressing these challenges and encouraged the Organization to continue to pursue its objectives with creativity and dedication while building on existing foundations.

In his opening remarks **H.E. Ambassador Ihor Prokopchuk** welcomed the participants on behalf of Minister Kozhara and thanked Australia for hosting the 2013 OSCE Asian Partners Conference. He noted that the location of the Conference revealed the amplitude of the OSCE's co-operation area, and emphasized that human security remained at the heart of the Organization's comprehensive security approach. Ambassador Prokopchuk valued the implementation of a number of relevant international decisions and OSCE documents, which was an indication of universal agreement on this matter; not only did the documents seek to combat violence against women, but also to empower them in the economic sphere and to increase women's participation in democratic processes. In spite of the difficulties inherent in translating the commitments into practical change in people's everyday lives, Ambassador Prokopchuk expressed his hope that the Conference would provide political impetus and raise the profile of the issue in hand.

He referred to the priorities of Ukraine's OSCE Chairmanship, which included the promotion of international co-operation in the fight against trafficking in human beings, a crime to which women and girls were particularly vulnerable. He highlighted the upcoming June conference in Kiev on combating trafficking in human beings and underlined the significance of co-operation between the OSCE and the Asian Partners for Co-operation in this field. With respect to the second (economic and environmental) dimension, Ambassador Prokopchuk referred to the need for the Conference to address challenges to security stemming from the under-representation of women in economic activities and entrepreneurship. A further matter related to the first (politico-military) and second dimensions was the significance of the security of and non-discrimination against women and girls, as mentioned in several Ministerial Council decisions and the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality. He added that discussions in this regard were being facilitated by the Ukrainian Chairmanship within the framework of the newly launched Helsinki+40 initiative.

Ambassador Prokopchuk concluded by calling for even closer security co-operation with the Asian Partners and for joint progress towards a future that would be free of violence, especially against women and girls.

Ambassador O'Leary thanked Australia for hosting the first OSCE-Australia Conference since it had become a Partner for Co-operation in 2009 and underlined the close historical and cultural links between Ireland and Australia. He noted that the security of women and girls was an issue of central importance to the modern world and one that was closely related to the OSCE's concept of comprehensive security. The role of women in peace and security had been highlighted in successive UN Security Council resolutions, starting with resolution 1325, for which Ireland had been a co-sponsor and a strong advocate. In the framework of the OSCE, Ambassador O'Leary referred to the Gender Action Plan and its six priority areas, including the prevention of violence against women and the promotion of equal opportunity for women in the economic sphere, both of which would be addressed in the Conference. He emphasized the OSCE's commitment to combating all forms of trafficking in human beings, which had also been a priority for the 2012 Irish Chairmanship. Ambassador O'Leary also pointed out that in May of the previous year the Irish Chairmanship had collaborated with the ODIHR on organizing a very successful seminar in Warsaw on the rule of law framework for combating trafficking in human beings.

Ambassador O’Leary expressed the hope that the Conference would not only facilitate the exchange of views but also serve to introduce the OSCE to those not yet familiar with it. Recalling briefly its creation in 1975 as the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe with the signature of the Helsinki Final Act, he emphasized its unique comprehensive approach to security, which spanned three dimensions – the politico-military, the economic and environmental, and the human – and offered a model and a toolbox for other regions of the world. The accession of Mongolia as 57th participating State during the Irish Chairmanship in 2012 illustrated the attraction of the model. Increased communication with other Asian countries interested in gaining more insight into the OSCE was one of Ireland’s objectives as Chair of the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation. Ambassador O’Leary invited representatives of non-partner Asian countries to make contact with him during the Conference and concluded his statement by reiterating his gratitude to the organizers.

OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier addressed the participants in a video statement and expressed his regret at being unable to participate in the Conference in person. He thanked the Government of Australia for hosting the first OSCE-Australia Conference and commented on Australia’s dedication and activities since becoming a Partner in 2009. In a reference to one of the most famous daughters of the city of Adelaide, he paid tribute to the fact that 2013 marked the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Dame Roma Flinders Mitchell, the first Australian woman to become a judge, a Queen’s Counsel, Chancellor of an Australian university and the Governor of an Australian State, which made the choice of Adelaide as venue for the Conference particularly symbolic. He noted that the agenda reflected the OSCE’s comprehensive approach to security and addressed a crucial issue of global concern. Equal rights for women and men was recognized by the OSCE as an essential precondition for fostering peace, sustainable democracy and economic development, and served as a platform for increasing the security of women and girls. Referring to the relevant OSCE decisions and documents that guided the work of the OSCE Secretariat, institutions and field operations, Mr. Zannier also mentioned the OSCE’s elaborate set of measures addressing the security of women and girls and the economic empowerment of women. He stressed that these were issues of utmost relevance to the OSCE and the wider Asian world alike and that a thoughtful exchange of experience could only be mutually beneficial.

Gender inequality remained a global problem despite differences between countries and societies. This was the reason why the OSCE, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), and the field operations had implemented a number of activities to raise levels of political awareness amongst governments, social partners and migrant associations. With regard to trafficking in human beings with its specific gender dimension, Mr. Zannier noted that it constituted a global crime that required co-ordinated joint efforts such as the present Conference, where new initiatives could be born and developed and co-operation could be enhanced.

In conclusion the OSCE Secretary General referred to Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/11 on Partners for Co-operation, which provided a solid basis for further action-oriented and results-based co-operation, and encouraged the Partners for Co-operation to pursue initiatives in the field of Partner-to-Partner co-operation. He also expressed his readiness to develop further contacts and exchanges of experiences with regional institutions across wider Asia.

3 Reports by session rapporteurs

3.1 Session 1: Combating gender-based violence against women and girls

Report by Janice Helwig, Policy Advisor at the U.S. Helsinki Commission

Moderator **Ambassador Tacan Ildem**, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the OSCE, opened Session 1 on combating gender-based violence against women and girls with a discussion on the importance of United Nations Security resolution 1325 on Women and Peace and Security. The resolution was an important international measure designed to combat gender-based violence particularly in the context of armed conflict, including rape and other forms of sexual abuse. In the OSCE context, Turkey, Kazakhstan and Austria had in the previous year co-sponsored a proposal to elaborate an OSCE Action Plan concerning implementation of UNSCR 1325, which they hoped would gain consensus in the current year.

Mr. Brian Glynn, Head of the Conflict Resolution Unit/OSCE Taskforce in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ireland, described the Irish experience in addressing gender violence in foreign policy. In 2004, the Irish Government had believed that the response to the high rate of rape during the conflict in Darfur had been insufficient. Consequently, together with civil society and academia, it had created the Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence in order to strengthen efforts to address the issue, co-ordinate government action, and ensure coherency. Former President of Ireland and former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson was a strong supporter of the initiative, and her patronage had been important in providing the Consortium with high-profile political support. Among the Consortium's objectives were raising the visibility of responses and ensuring the systematic addressing of the issues in foreign policy. It also produced reports documenting situations in various countries such as Sierra Leone and conducted gender awareness training for personnel serving overseas, in international missions and elsewhere. The Consortium also had an advocacy role, which it had pursued in support of UNSCR 1325 by, for example, participating in Ireland's official delegation to the UN Commission on the Status of Women and conducting side events. It had a small annual budget of about 80,000 euros, about half of which came from the government. Mr. Glynn also noted the importance of male participation in combating gender-based violence against women.

Dr. Alan Ryan, Executive Director of the Australian Civil-Military Centre, discussed the Australian experience of gender issues in conflict and peacekeeping situations. The Centre worked to build capacity for responding more effectively to conflicts overseas, and women, peace and security were an integral part of that effort. Addressing violence against women was about inclusion, empowerment and prevention, and required the involvement of both genders. Violence against women and sexual violence had an operational impact on missions. It was disturbing that there were attempts to relativize the issue: women and children were disproportionately affected, and targeting women was to target the whole of society. The goal of the Centre, therefore, was to help plan and conduct activities calculated to make the situation better, by such means as developing national capabilities to respond and co-operating with other sectors of government working on peace and security issues. Currently, the Centre was working with military staff, police, and civilian leadership to develop guidelines for the deployment of operations. Gender awareness needed to be part of planning from the beginning, and must be tailored to each situation. UNSCR 1325 had been

integrated into the training package for personnel being deployed. The Centre was also working on two papers – one on sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations, and the other on general violence in conflict situations.

Ms. Sirpa Rautio, Director of the Human Rights Centre of Finland, discussed her experiences of working in the field – notably in the Balkans with both the United Nations and the OSCE. Ms. Rautio expressed her belief that Bosnia and Herzegovina had been a turning point for field work on gender violence. At that time, there had been a lack of attention to promoting economic and social rights and equal opportunities for women, and those who needed services the most did not always receive them. The international community had come a long way since then, particularly through the work of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and more binding commitments such as UNSCR 1325. Finland had a National Action Plan on implementing UNSCR 1325, which was already in its second phase. The OSCE had managed to increase the focus on human rights and gender issues as a component of security, especially through its Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and its field presences. An important new instrument was the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention), which opened for signature in 2011; it was likely to get the necessary eight ratifications to enter into force in the course of 2013. The Convention broke new ground in the law enforcement area and brought a comprehensive legal framework to a human rights convention. It was generally gender-neutral and addressed any forms of gender-based violence, not only violence committed against women. It had the potential to be more effective than some other conventions as it did not allow for many reservations, and the ones it did allow for were time-limited. It also had very specific language concerning the definition of certain crimes, including domestic violence. It would be a positive and concrete step forward if countries were to put their national laws into accordance with the Convention.

Dr. Alice Pollard, Director of the West AreAre Rokotanikeni Association, discussed prevention of gender-based violence on the Solomon Islands. Dr. Pollard stressed that the context must be taken into account; people in the Solomon Islands generally lived in rural conditions, with limited access to electricity, legal services, banking services, or law enforcement. Prevention was challenging; violence against women was already a serious problem threatening the country's youth as well as its education and health systems. A 2009 study had shown that sixty-four per cent of women reported that they had suffered physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner, while forty-two per cent of working women reported that they had experienced physical or sexual violence in the previous twelve months. Dr. Pollard gave accounts of several individual cases to show economic empowerment's potential for providing an effective solution. Two years before, the parliament had approved a policy to address gender violence; now that policy must be put into action.

The **discussion** that followed focused on best practices, the practical implementation of national policies, and the importance of involving men in efforts to empower women and prevent violence against them. A representative of the **United Kingdom** discussed his country's Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative, which was designed to prevent violence against women and boys, notably during conflicts, and to strengthen international co-operation. The UK was working on a G8 declaration on the issue, and was also planning to work with regional organizations including the OSCE. A representative of the **United States** gave information about the 7 March 2013 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, which provided tools for police and law enforcement. New additions included a

provision for the use of tribal courts and specific protection to allow undocumented women to report domestic violence without fear of deportation. Several participants, notably from **Flinders University**, discussed whether gender-neutral or gender-specific language was more effective in international conventions or national policies; members of the panel responded that language should be as specific as possible depending on the situation being addressed. **Dr. Ryan** stressed the importance of analysing specific conflicts to avoid a cookie-cutter response. A representative of the **Sikh Council of Australia** pointed to issues relating to displacement and refugees as well as to women in traditional societies working outside the home, and stressed the need for better communication between the government and the grass-roots level. The NGO **Sisters Inside** discussed the growing rate of imprisonment of women – particularly Aboriginal women – in Australia, many of whom were convicted for retaliating after being victims of rape or domestic violence.

Turning to the OSCE, a representative of **Kazakhstan** asked what role the OSCE could play in implementing UNSCR 1325, as well as how the OSCE could increase its activities in participating States that did not host OSCE field presences, and in OSCE Partner countries. **Mr. Douglas Wake**, Deputy Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, discussed ODIHR training programmes designed to enable the police and military in participating States to integrate gender training into their work, and the ODIHR's provision of legal analysis. **Dr. Ryan** agreed that while training was vital, it also needed to be augmented through career development and research. There must be a clear understanding that violence, whether directed at women, boys or men, exacted a cost. Governments could not afford to wait until a crisis or a situation in which they had to respond to a conflict – plans and materials must be ready and accessible for policymakers. **Ambassador Ildem** stressed that ownership of the issue was required right up to the highest level, that international and regional organizations had roles to play, and that civil society involvement was important. He added that the Conference should be a catalyst for further OSCE work to combat violence against women.

3.2 Session 2: Economic empowerment of women

Report by Ms. Kaja Glomm, First Secretary, Norwegian Embassy in Canberra

The moderator, **Ambassador Ol'ga Algayerová**, introduced the panel and stated that women's participation constituted a contribution to economic recovery and growth, was important for cohesive societies, and was essential for security and stability in the OSCE area.

H.E. Ambassador Miroslava Beham, OSCE Senior Advisor on Gender Issues, spoke on the subject "Women as Entrepreneurs, Executives, and Equals: Advancing Women's Economic Empowerment in the OSCE Region". She referred to women's participation in the formal economy as a potential source of increased GDP. Women's economic empowerment would be likely to lead to increased spending on household and communities and would thus contribute to poverty eradication and sustainable growth. As regards women's business ownership, she claimed it would boost output and growth by promoting diversification and expansion into small and medium enterprises. She identified the need to access capital and resources as gender-specific hurdles, and referred to training programmes in Armenia. Ambassador Beham asserted that while more women executives would increase net earnings ("the bottom line"), there was a lack of mentoring, leadership and professional development. She suggested the establishment of mentor networks and referred to current projects in the Balkans related to the development of and training for gender focal points, which might be shared with partner countries. Furthermore, Ambassador Beham pointed out that the gender gap fuelled inequality and that a comprehensive approach was necessary to close the gap. Empowerment through long-term sustainable measures at local level was necessary, and the playing field must be transparent, fair and open.

Ms. Khatija Thomas, South Australian Government Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement, spoke on the subject "Participation of aboriginal women in South Australia, and in the economy". She pointed out that disadvantage in aboriginal communities was not exclusively a women's rights issue: disadvantage must be addressed from a family perspective. However, measures and recommendations to address disadvantage were often directed at men, not women. In order to address disadvantage effectively it was important to speak for whole communities and families in an appropriate way (age, gender), as the layers of disadvantage were so complex. Culturally it was important to address disadvantage first, as it was not necessarily skewed in terms of gender.

Mr. Takeshi Hikihara, Deputy Director-General, European Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, gave a presentation entitled "Women's growing presence in the economy – empowerment policies in Japan". He pointed out that although the unemployment rate for women in Japan had decreased, the potential of women had not been fully utilized. Women's participation was not just a question of social justice but also of sustainable economic development. Mr. Hikihara stated that if the percentage of women in the workforce increased from 60 to 80, Japan's GDP would increase by 15 per cent. In Japan, although 52 per cent of men and 59 per cent of women graduated from college, after having children birth women lagged behind in their careers even when back at work. Only five per cent of executives were women. In December 2012 Japan had launched a gender equality policy to cover areas such as employment, health and poverty reduction.

Mr. Hikikara stated that women's economic empowerment was also an important element in Japan's international co-operation, making reference to ongoing projects in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. He also announced that Japan would host the 2014 OSCE Asian Partners Conference.

Mr. Kang Jeong-Sik, Deputy Director-General for International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea, spoke about "Challenges and the way forward for economic empowerment of women". He pointed out that full equal participation of women was necessary and that the empowerment of women was essential for peace and security, development and economic growth. He made reference to potential GDP growth as a result of women's participation and pointed out that there was a correlation between the gender gap and competitiveness. He also stated that analysis of poor growth in the context of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) had shown gender equality to be a driving force in achieving economic growth. Mr. Jeong-Sik pointed out that Korea had made efforts to improve women's participation but that despite a steady increase there were still many challenges. He pointed to family responsibilities, the labour market and the social welfare system as factors that were not favourable to resuming a career after having children. In his Government's plan for 2013–2017, priority would be given to the following points:

- a. Education and raising awareness of gender equality; traditional stereotypes/gender roles had to be challenged. Promoting equality.
- b. Professional women being able to balance work and family life. An increase in sponsored child care (from 10 to 30 per cent). Sharing the burden of child care and domestic chores.
- c. The enhancing and guaranteeing of women's active participation in politics. More women to be active in decision-making in the private sector.

In the discussion the representative of **Oxfam** commented that gender was cross-cutting (from gender-based violence to economic empowerment) and that initiatives to deal with systematic discrimination must be undertaken before implementing child care policies. The **OSCE Secretariat** commented that a large increase in the percentage of women in higher education could lead to systematic change. **World Vision** commented that work must be done at household level regarding decision-making and spending, as women tended to spend more on family. It was also important to focus on women's entrepreneurship. **Ambassador Beham** replied that the OSCE had a comprehensive approach and saw gender as a security, economic, environmental and human rights issue. She also pointed out that gender was not only related to women. Studies indicated that the drop-out rate for young men was growing, so that there was a risk of undereducated, unemployed young men constituting a security issue. There was an urgent need to strive for gender balance as only real gender equality would benefit all people.

Ms. Thomas mentioned that the number one factor was family violence, pointing out a connection between family violence, imprisonment rate and lack of male role-models. Although many women completed their education, they carried an extra burden because of having to balance family commitments with formal work commitments. **Mr. Hikihara** noted the importance of sharing knowledge/experience as well as providing successful role models. He also commented that in Japan women had a larger say in financial decision-making in the household. **Mr. Jeong-sik** commented that legislative and cultural changes were important and made reference to improvements in Korea regarding the passing-on of women's surnames to children and the inheritance and ownership of family assets.

The **Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries** noted that full gender equality was the most important factor for peace and stability and made reference to the October 2011 Conference in Baku on the role of women and participation. All Turkic-speaking countries had agreed on actions in the outcome document. Best practices were important for all efforts across Asia. **Austria** made reference to the four goals of the Austrian National Action Plan: diversification, labour force, managerial, closing the income gap. Work and family obligations must be reconciled in order to increase women's economic empowerment, with measures such as child care facilities and paternity leave (currently four weeks in Austria). To deal with the gender-specific wage gap, Austria now had obligatory income reports in view of the greater transparency deemed necessary to reduce the income gap. Another measure in place was that of affirmative action, and Austria had recently introduced gender budgeting in order to increase transparency. Women's economic empowerment was also a priority in development co-operation. **Ireland** noted that the ultimate test was the question "Are we appointing women?". If not, the policy was not working. The **Women's International League for Peace and Freedom** commented that women's economic empowerment must be viewed in the framework of women's rights and not only in terms of its impact on economic development.

Ambassador Beham noted that economic development was an argument for those who needed convincing, but the first point of departure was to empower women. Gender budgeting was a very strong tool in the implementation of gender equality. Austria had been the first in the world to implement it, allocating budgets for gender throughout all ministries and comparable bodies. **Ms. Thomas** commented that discussion on the ideological level was important, but that disadvantaged people did not care what you called it as long as you delivered. **Mr. Hikihara** commented that rights and economic development were of mutual importance, while **Mr. Jeong-sik** stated that the empowerment of women must be done in the context of human rights.

3.3 Session 3: Combating all forms of human trafficking

Report by Alexander Chapman, Desk Officer, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Europe Division, Southern Europe Section

The third session of the Conference, moderated by **Associate Professor Jennifer Burn** of the University of Technology, Sydney, Director of Anti-Slavery Australia, was dedicated to the issue of trafficking in human beings, and in particular to its effect on women and girls. During the session, the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings was joined by speakers representing the ODIHR and Thailand, while various other delegates contributed thoughts on their own countries' experiences of combating trafficking in human beings.

Dr. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, OSCE Special Representative (SR) and Co-ordinator on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, outlined the sheer scope of trafficking in human beings around the world and the complex links between economic trends and trafficking in human beings. According to ILO estimates, some 20.9 million people were victims of forced labour and trafficking in human beings globally, with roughly three million of these being in the OSCE area. Trafficking continued to be a gendered crime, as 98 per cent of victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation were women and 40 per cent of persons trafficked for forced labour women or girls. Straitened economic times of the kind currently being experienced in Europe had brought about a substantial increase in trafficking and exploitation of women and girls. Conversely, in times of economic growth demand for cheap labour contributed to increases in trafficking for labour exploitation and other purposes. Dr. Giammarinaro also expanded on measures taken by the OSCE to combat trafficking in human beings. The OSCE was helping to pioneer a human rights approach to preventing and combating trafficking; the SR repeated her appeal to participating States to protect the human rights of all victims and to promote gender equality and women's empowerment as key preventive strategies. OSCE commitments such as the Vilnius Declaration would continue to be important, as would the efforts of the OSCE's Asian Partners, which had instituted similar mechanisms in their respective countries.

Mr. Douglas Wake, First Deputy Director, ODIHR, elaborated further on the human rights approach, detailing the effect of anti-trafficking measures on the victims of trafficking. Too often, anti-trafficking measures only resulted in greater suffering for the victims of trafficking. To prevent this, the human rights approach demanded that anti-trafficking measures target traffickers, not victims. Despite the fact that it was often easier to expel a presumed victim, the human rights approach required that a victim be given protection, even if this may put a burden on a State's resources. In response to a delegate who questioned how realistic this idea was, Mr. Wake acknowledged the practical difficulties inherent in ensuring that States with limited resources could adequately protect victims, but stressed that the placing of the victim at the centre of anti-trafficking efforts was still of paramount importance.

Professor Chaikasem Nitisiri, of Thailand, discussed efforts by his own country and by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to combat people trafficking in the region. South-East Asia was one of the world's largest sources of victims of trafficking, and ASEAN members had agreed that the region would benefit from a regional approach to combating trafficking. Thailand had taken steps toward this, including establishing a national agenda to fight trafficking in persons in 2004, and new legislation (the Anti-Trafficking Act) in 2008.

It had also intensified its internal processes for ratifying relevant international legislation, and was co-ordinating its approach with regional partners such as Malaysia and Australia.

Representatives of various OSCE States gave accounts of their countries' efforts to combat trafficking in human beings. The **Swiss** representative discussed his government's approach, focusing in particular on its programme to combat trafficking for domestic servitude among diplomatic staff in Switzerland, which was part of Switzerland's first national action plan against trafficking in human beings (2012–2014). The **French** representative commented that domestic servitude in diplomatic households should not necessarily be a priority when so much remained to be done in the OSCE zone, but agreed that the fight against trafficking in human beings was a political priority. It was important to continue to fight against poor enforcement of standards, and to focus on using existing tools to combat trafficking in human beings rather than creating new ones.

An intervention from the representative of the **UN High Commissioner for Refugees** provoked much discussion, particularly in connection with displaced persons being particularly vulnerable to trafficking. **Mr. Wake** commented that the overlap between displaced persons and trafficking was understudied, and that many persons entering the OSCE zone from other areas were often fleeing persecution, which might make them more vulnerable to trafficking in human beings. **Associate Professor Burn** also noted that residents of long-term refugee camps were often particularly vulnerable to exploitation of various kinds, including being trafficked or smuggled.

A question was asked as to what extent neoliberal economic policies were contributing to an increase in trafficking in human beings. **Dr. Giammarinaro** responded that while trafficking was too complex a phenomenon for generalizations, it was certainly the case that poor regulation and poor conditions in work environments often led to a greater risk of trafficking. In response to a question from the Austrian delegate, Dr. Giammarinaro explained how her office and the ODIHR were co-operating on a variety of activities and projects, including capacity-building work and training for officials involved in trafficking in human beings. One delegate questioned the effectiveness of some of these programmes, and Dr. Giammarinaro acknowledged that it would take time to see whether the programmes had had an overall positive effect or not.

On the question of legislative frameworks, **Mr. Wake** noted that the example of countries such as Australia offered a model for any country looking to develop a legislative framework based on the human rights approach. **Associate Professor Burn** and **Professor Nitisiri** also commented on Thailand's progress towards establishing this kind of framework, which made it a good example of a country striving to implement the human rights approach in the face of a substantial trafficking problem. Finally, in response to a question about the plurality of legislative models for regulating prostitution now in existence in Europe, **Dr. Giammarinaro** agreed that there was ample scope for comparative studies of this matter, which constituted one significant aspect of anti-trafficking efforts. However, it was imperative that human trafficking issues be placed at the centre of a range of different legislative instruments to create a comprehensive and effective anti-trafficking legal framework.

4 Summary of the closing session

Report by Alexander Krez, External Co-operation Officer, OSCE Secretariat

The closing session was chaired by **H.E. Ambassador Ihor Prokopchuk**, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the OSCE and Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office. Concluding remarks were delivered by **Mr. Jeff Roach**, Assistant Secretary, Northern, Southern and Eastern Europe Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia, and by **H.E. Ambassador Eoin O’Leary**, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the OSCE and Chairperson of the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation.

On behalf of the Ukrainian OSCE Chairman-in-Office, **Ambassador Prokopchuk** thanked all participants for their active and constructive participation. He noted that the Conference had covered a wide spectrum of issues related to improving the security of women and girls. In addition, he recalled the main contents of the three sessions: combating gender-based violence, the economic empowerment of women, and the global crime of trafficking in human beings. Ambassador Prokopchuk summarized the main aspects discussed in the three sessions and praised the participants’ valuable contributions, which had made the OSCE-Australia conference a real success. He noted that participants had exchanged ideas, experiences and best practices and identified several areas where it would be desirable to deepen co-operation between the OSCE and its Asian Partners. On behalf of Ukraine he expressed hope that the outcomes of the Conference would also be discussed and transformed into tangible results by the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna, in preparation for the 20th OSCE Ministerial Council in Kiev, as well as in the framework of the Helsinki+40 Process. In this regard, Ukraine would serve as a facilitator and catalyst for the deepening and strengthening of the relationship between the OSCE and its Partners for Co-operation. He concluded by expressing his gratitude to all participants for their important contributions, to the Australian Government for its outstanding hospitality and organization of the event, and to the OSCE Secretariat staff for their constant support.

Mr. Jeff Roach expressed his gratitude to all the representatives and delegates from the OSCE and Australia’s Asian and Pacific neighbours who had gathered for the Conference. He commended NGO and academic participation and the strong voice brought to the conference by the relevant delegates. Mr. Roach compared the threat posed by violence against women and girls to a cancer in our communities and reminded delegates of the powerful testimony from Dr. Pollard (Solomon Islands) that this violence threatened the family unit, which was the cornerstone of any nation’s sense of security. He stressed that Dr. Pollard’s remarks were a reminder of the difficult social and economic conditions experienced by the vast majority of the world’s women. Mr. Roach concluded by suggesting that there was a need for the international community to be careful not to invest unduly in treaties and legal work and neglect the difficult and challenging task of working within cultures and communities across the globe to tackle unacceptable rates of violence against women.

In his concluding remarks **Ambassador O’Leary** praised the Conference, which in his view had been one of the most interesting annual conferences in recent years, mainly on account of its clear focus on a very real and concrete issue of global concern. He noted that the Conference had made it possible for high-ranking national experts and civil society representatives to engage in the joint consideration of various aspects of the topic. However, Ambassador O’Leary emphasized that improving the security of women and girls was not an issue that could be summarily disposed of in a two-day conference. On the contrary, it

required continuous attention from all stakeholders if real and tangible change was to be achieved. He expressed the hope that all participants had profited from the mutual inspiration offered during the previous two days and would go away with ideas on how to take forward the work of the Conference. He pointed out that the OSCE had long valued its relationship with its Asian Partners, who had so much to offer, and that the Conference would be the highlight of the Asian Partnership in the current year. Nevertheless, he trusted there would be numerous opportunities for follow-up to the Conference in the regular meetings of the Contact Group in Vienna.

Ambassador O'Leary concluded by reiterating his warmest appreciation of the excellent hospitality extended by Australia and of the OSCE Secretariat's support, and thanked the moderators, speakers and rapporteurs for their invaluable contributions.

5 List of participants

OSCE PARTICIPATING STATES

Germany

Mr. Matthias Peter **Sonn** Minister, German Embassy in Canberra

United States of America

Mr. Fred **Turner** Chief of Staff, Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (US Helsinki Commission)

Ms. Janice Lynn **Helwig** Policy Advisor, Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (US Helsinki Commission)

Ms. Heidi **Herschede** Political Officer, U.S. Department of State

Austria

Mr. Thorsten **Eisingerich** Deputy Head of Mission, Minister-Counsellor, Ministry of European and International Affairs Vienna represented by the Austrian Embassy in Canberra

Finland

Ms. Sirpa Tuulikki **Rautio** Director, Human Rights Centre

France

Mr. Cedric **Prieto** Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of France in Canberra

Greece

Mr. Christos **Maniakis-Grivas** Consul General of Greece

Mr. Dimitros **Chronas** Consular Employee

Ireland / EU / OSCE Troika

Ambassador Eoin Finbarr **O'Leary** Head of Mission, Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE

Ms. Martina Mary **Feeney** Deputy Head of Mission, Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE

Mr. Brian Joseph **Glynn** Director OSCE, Department for Foreign Affairs

Italy

Mr. Alessandro **Giovine** First Secretary, Head of the Consular Office, Embassy of Italy in Canberra

Kazakhstan

Ms. Zhanar **Kulzhanova** Counsellor, Embassy/Permanent Mission to the International Organizations in Vienna

Norway

Ms. Kaja **Glomm** Deputy Head of Mission, Royal Norwegian Embassy Canberra

Poland

Ms. Gosia **Hill** Hon. Consul for the Republic of Poland in South Australia

Holy See

Mr. Maurizio **Pettena** Representative of the Holy See

Slovakia

Ambassador Ol'ga **Algayerová** Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the International Organizations in Vienna/Austria

Switzerland / OSCE Troika

Mr. Stefan **Kloetzli** Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Switzerland in Australia

Turkey

Ambassador Tacan **Ildem** Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey to the OSCE

Ukraine / OSCE Chairmanship

Ambassador Ihor **Prokopchuk** Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna

PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION

ASIAN PARTNERS

Australia

Ms. Penny **Williams** Global Ambassador for Women and Girls

Mr. Alex **Brooking** Director, South Australia State Office, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

Mr. Jeff **Roach** Assistant Secretary, Northern, Southern and Eastern Europe Branch, DFAT

Dr. Alan **Ryan** Executive Director, Australian Civil-Military Centre

Ms. Jacqui Joudo Larsen	Principal Research Analyst, Australian Institute of Criminology
Mr. David Haynes	Deputy Director, South Australia State Office, DFAT
Dr. Samantha Bricknell	Deputy Research Manager & Principal Research Analyst, Australian Institute of Criminology
Mr. Brendon Carlill	Executive Officer, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Ms. Ann Matthews	Visits Coordinator, South Australia State Office, DFAT
Mr. Dmitry Grozoubinski	Desk Officer, Northern, Southern and Eastern Europe Branch, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Mr. Alexander Chapman	Desk Officer, Northern, Southern and Eastern Europe Branch, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

South Australian Government Delegation

Ms. Khatija Thomas	Commissioner, Office for the Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement, Government of South Australia
Dr. Tahnya Donaghy	Deputy Chief Executive, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Government of South Australia
Ms. Catherine Barnett	Chief Executive Officer, Food SA (South Australia), Government of South Australia
Ms. Vanessa Swan	Director, Office for Women, Department of Communities and Social Inclusion, Government of South Australia
Mr. Nicola Sasanelli	Director, Greater Europe and R&D Collaborations, Office of International Coordination, State Development, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Government of South Australia
Ms. Cecilia White	Manager, Community and Business Programs, Office of the Commissioner for Equal Employment, Attorney-General's Department, Government of South Australia
Dr. Sanjuga Vas Dev	Principal Policy Officer, Office of the Chief Executive, Department of Education and Child Development, Government of South Australia

Ms. Desi **Angelis** Senior Project Officer, Greater Europe and R&D Collaborations, Office of International Coordination, State Development, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Government of South Australia

Afghanistan

Ms. Sayeda Muzhgan **Mustafawi** Deputy Minister for Women's Affairs, Afghanistan

Japan

Mr. Takeshi **Hikihara** Deputy Director General, European Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Mr. Kenshin **Ito** Deputy Director, European Policy Division, European Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Republic of Korea

Mr. **Kang** Jeong-Sik Deputy Director-General, International Organizations Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea

Mr. **Kang** Yoo-Sik First Secretary, International Security Affairs Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea

Thailand

Mr. Adisak **Panupong** Executive Director, Thailand Institute of Justice

Mr. Chaikasem **Nitisiri** Chairman of the Thailand Institute of Justice Board of Directors

Ms. Wanvilas **Nittayasuthi** Foreign Affairs Officer

Mr. Phiset **Sa-Ardyen** Director, Office of Research and Capacity Building

Mr. Monsak **Jangariyawong** First Secretary, Royal Thai Embassy in Canberra

OSCE INSTITUTIONS

OSCE Secretariat

Dr. Maria Grazia **Giammarinaro** Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Mr. Ian **Mitchell** Head, External Co-operation

Ambassador Miroslava **Beham** Senior Adviser on Gender Issues

Mr. Alexander **Krez** External Co-operation Officer

Ms. Aldona **Szymanski** Senior External Co-operation Assistant

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Mr. Douglas Bruce **Wake** First Deputy Director

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Red Cross

Ms. Kerry **Symons** Executive Director SA

UNHCR

Mr. Michael **Clayton** Associate Legal Officer

GUESTS OF THE HOST COUNTRY

West AreAre Rokotanikeni Association

Dr. **Alice Pollard** Director of the West AreAre Rokotanikeni Association, Solomon Islands

Ghana

Mr. Rasheed Seidu **Inusah** Minister, Ghana High Commission, Canberra

Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries (TURKPA)

Mr. Ramil **Hasanov** Secretary General

Mr. Alasgar **Aghayev** Secretary for Organizational Affairs

Mr. Ramin **Mammadov** Expert on Gender Equality

Mr. Anar **Rahimov** Secretary for International Cooperation and Protocol

SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS / NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Adelaide University

Prof. Christine **Beasley** Fay Gale Centre for Research on Gender/ Politics and International Studies, University of Adelaide

Dr. Anna **Szorenyi** Lecturer, Gender Work and Social Analysis

Ms. Megan **Warin** Associate Professor, Gender Work and Social Analysis

Mr. Purnendra **Jain** Professor

Mr. Kanishka **Jayasurya** Professor

Carnegie Mellon University

Mr. Terry **Buss** Distinguished Professor

Flinders University

Mr. Stephen Gerlach	Chancellor
Mr. Andrew Parkin	Deputy Vice Chancellor
Mr. Malcolm Cook	Dean, School of International Studies
Ms. Cara Ellickson	Director, Gender Consortium
Dr. Anu Mundkur	Associate Director, Gender Consortium
Ms. Yvonne Corcoran-Nantes	Associate Professor
Dr. Catherine Kevin	
Ms. Talia Admiraal	Volunteer
Mr. Leon Cermak	Volunteer
Mr. Nathan Flentjar	Volunteer
Mr. Nicholas Hayles	Volunteer
Mr. Rogers Mbanza	Volunteer
Ms. Jessica Mitchell	Volunteer
Ms. Kate Murphy	Volunteer
Ms. Epriyanti Renfrey	Volunteer

University of South Australia

Mr. Nigel Relph	Deputy Vice Chancellor
Ms. Suzanne Franzway	Professor at the Centre for Gender Studies, Hawke Research Institute
Prof Elisabeth Porter	Lecturer, Centre for Peace, Conflict and Mediation, Hawke Research Institute
Dr. Carole Zufferey	Australian Centre for Child Protection (ACCP), Research Centre for Gender Studies
Dr. Snjezana Bilic	Tutor/Sessional Lecturer

University of South Wales

Dr. Claudia Tazreiter
Dr. Helen Pringle

University College London

Mr. David Travers	Chief Executive
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The Council of the Care of Children

Ms. Jane Chapman	Member
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Sisters Inside Inc

Ms. Debbie **Kilroy**

CEO

**Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)
Australia**

Ms. Barbara Joan **O'Dwyer**

National Coordinator of WILPF Australia

Department of Education and Child Development

Dr. Masika **Joseph**

Team Leader, Community Development,
and Chairperson, African Communities
Council of South Australia