



PC.DEL/620/04
2 July 2004

ENGLISH only

**PERMANENT MISSION OF FINLAND
TO THE OSCE**

**Statement by Director Anu Laamanen Ryter
at the reinforced Permanent Council
Vienna July 1, 2004**

Mr Chairman,

We would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to an invitation to a conference "Ensuring Human Rights Protection in Countries of Destination: Breaking the Cycle of Trafficking". This conference is organised by the ODIHR in co-operation with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. The conference will be held on 23-24 September 2004 in Helsinki as a follow up to the 2001 Berlin Conference "Europe against Trafficking in Persons." The invitation (*ODIHR.GAL/50,51,52/04*) was circulated yesterday.

The conference's goal is to raise awareness about these challenges and to look for new strategies to effectively ensure human rights protection for trafficked persons in countries of destination.

Many governments, non-governmental and international organisations are intensifying their efforts to prevent trafficking in human beings, protect its victims and prosecute traffickers. Such efforts include recent steps taken by the European Union, the Council of Europe and the OSCE, in particular the establishment of the OSCE Special Representative on Trafficking in Human Beings.

It is time to reflect on the situation of trafficking in countries of destination. While the conference is designed to promote discussion on many themes, particular attention will be given to the status and protection of victims.