

**OSCE Human Dimension Implementation meeting 2012****Canadian Statement for Working Session 8:  
Humanitarian issues and other commitments:  
Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings****Friday, 28 September 2012**

Mr. Moderator,

Canada applauds the on-going efforts made by the OSCE and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights to fight the complex and global problem of human trafficking.

Canada was pleased to receive a visit in August 2011 by the OSCE Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, and we continue to support her vital work as a catalyst for international co-operation and national action.

This first visit of the OSCE Special Representative to Canada afforded an opportunity to discuss common challenges, and reaffirmed our joint commitment to work together in advancing the protection of victims of trafficking, as well as the prosecution of traffickers.

In March of this year, Canada presented the Diefenbaker Defender of Human Rights and Freedom Award to Susana Trimarco, an activist against human trafficking. Ms. Trimarco is responsible for rescuing 150 victims of human trafficking and helping them recover their livelihoods.

On June 6 of this year, Canada announced its National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking. This Action Plan is a comprehensive blueprint to guide the Government of Canada's fight against the serious crime of human trafficking. The Action Plan consolidates Canada's ongoing efforts in this area and introduces significant new initiatives guided by its international commitments contained in the UN Trafficking Protocol, and organized under the 'four P's': Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnerships.

These new measures build on Canada's significant work to date by enhancing prevention in communities by focusing on at-risk populations. They include dedicated law enforcement initiatives and on front-line training, improving services for victims, and strengthening coordination with domestic and international partners who contribute to Canada's efforts to combat human trafficking.

Some Action Plan highlights include an integrated law enforcement team; funding for projects that improve services to victims of human trafficking; and, a national campaign

related to the trafficking of Aboriginal peoples (First Nations, Inuit and Metis) living on and off-reserve.

Human trafficking is a lucrative criminal activity that affects virtually every country around the world. That is why we have made a strong commitment to our national partners and our global allies that we will take a firm stand against this complex and horrific crime. It is a crime that requires innovative and multi-lateral solutions and, accordingly, we are tackling it through a multi-faceted and multi-pronged approach.

Internationally, Canada believes that a multi-disciplinary approach adopted by all the participating States of the OSCE region could make serious headway in combatting this practice. Canada supports programmes in countries that enhance the capacity to prevent and respond to threats posed by transnational criminal activity. Canada was pleased to support the "Human Dimension of Security" project in Eastern Europe in partnership with the OSCE, as well as the European regional program to combat trafficking in persons, an ODIHR initiative.

Finally, Canada was pleased to participate this past June in a regionally-based workshop in Geneva, led by Special Representative Giammarinaro, aimed at raising the profile of the unique forms of trafficking of human beings for domestic servitude in diplomatic households. This workshop, which favoured capacity-building and public policy measures to prevent domestic servitude in diplomatic households, bodes well. Indeed, so many in the international community, starting with foreign ministries themselves, are taking responsibility to protect domestic workers in diplomatic households against abuses, harassment and violence.

Mr. Moderator, we wish to offer the following recommendations to the OSCE and the participating States within the context of this session:

- We urge the participating States to continue to take measures to ensure that trafficked persons are able to access remedies, as contemplated in the UN Trafficking Protocol. We encourage the OSCE to develop new strategies to address current challenges in providing legal assistance to trafficked persons.
- We encourage the participating States to intensify efforts and take effective and sustainable steps to prevent and redress trafficking for domestic servitude in diplomatic households, in a way that ultimately honours the diplomatic profession itself.
- We urge the participating States not only to develop and implement specific anti-trafficking measures but also to integrate anti-trafficking efforts into existing policies and programs.

To succeed in our fight against human trafficking, countries cannot act alone. Only through a sustained, multi-faceted and collaborative effort can we be successful in tackling the human trafficking problem, and prevent it from affecting even more people.

This is the comprehensive approach that Canada takes and will continue to take, both domestically and abroad.

Thank you.