



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

**Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova,
OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator
for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings**

Report

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In accordance with MC.DEC/2/03, the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Being and its Addendums, the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR/CTHB) continued to support OSCE participating States in implementing their OSCE anti-trafficking commitments throughout 2017, particularly in the areas of:

- Prevention, including data collection, research and addressing root causes;
- Prosecution, including criminalization, investigation;
- Protection of victim's rights, to ensure adequate assistance and compensation;
- Partnerships, to strengthen mechanisms to combat trafficking in human beings (THB).

Trafficking in human beings remains one of the most far-reaching and lucrative criminal enterprises on the globe. The 2017 Global Estimates of Modern Slavery gauged that, at any given time in 2016, 24.9 million people were trapped in forced labour, with 4.8 million victims forced into sexual exploitation. Age is not a mitigating factor for traffickers, with almost one in four detected trafficking victims a child according to 2016 UNODC data. With prolonged instability around the OSCE region, latest UNHCR figures further indicate that, as of 17 October 2017, 144,656 individuals risked their lives reaching Europe by sea alone. Particularly in situations such as these, where the rule of law has been weakened and exceptional flows of migrants and refugees consistently report appalling abuses through North Africa, human trafficking flourishes and has been regularly documented in the form of sexual violence and exploitation, forced labour and other serious human rights violations.

Latest Trends in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Building upon its initiatives and achievements and taking stock of the findings of the comprehensive survey undertaken in 2016, my Office in 2017 focused its awareness raising and technical assistance on **human trafficking stemming from emergencies and crisis situations**, in particular:

- Trafficking in Human Beings-Related Risks and Mixed-Migration Flows;
- Trafficking of Minors, including Unaccompanied and Separated Children;
- Trafficking in Human Being-Related Risks and Conflict Situations;
- Trafficking in Human Being for the Purposes of Terrorist Activities.

Within the context of **mixed-migration flows**, human trafficking is having direct and indirect security implications for transit and host countries across the OSCE region. Throughout 2017, the OSR/CTHB thus continued its pioneering, multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral ExB project “Combating Human Trafficking along Migration Routes” at the Carabinieri-run Centre of Excellence for Stability Police Units (CoEPSU) in Vicenza, Italy. Designed to **comprehensively respond to THB in a migratory context**, this innovative capacity-building project has, to date, provided a multi-stakeholder group of 192 participants from 47 OSCE participating States and 4 Partners for Co-operation with improved knowledge of **indicators for identifying trafficked persons among large movements of people** over the course of three simulation exercises. Not content to focus on theoretical or technical issues related to anti-trafficking action alone, we placed the onus on practical and realistic simulation exercises, especially **sexual and labour exploitation cases among migrants, including child victims**. A further important exercise goal related to the employment of financial investigative techniques to trace and seize traffickers’ profits to put an end to perpetrator immunity and dismantle complex criminal organizations.

This year, to ensure the success of the project, we consolidated and expanded upon the extensive working partnerships formed in 2016. In this respect, I am pleased that the format has grown to include the **expertise and support of fifteen active partners**. In the last 13 months, **more than three hundred individuals from local authorities, civil society networks, and partner international organizations** have proven instrumental in ensuring the successful project implementation. Above all, I would like to thank the Italian Carabinieri and the hosting country for joining hands with us on this project and for generous and continuous in-kind contributions, as well as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Europol, Interpol, ICMPD, and the University of Padova – including its students, as well as the municipalities of Venice and Vicenza. Similarly, for their invaluable efforts on the ground, I extend a warm thank you to my own OSCE colleagues in the Transnational Threats Department (TNTD) and Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC).

Further aiming to aid in **better identification and protection of a higher proportion of trafficking victims** and drawing upon almost two years of fact-finding field missions and ad-hoc expert research at grass-roots level in countries most impacted by mixed-migration flows, this month, my Office will publish a report focusing on challenges and opportunities of the full spectrum of anti-trafficking responses at first identification and reception facilities for

migrants and refugees across the OSCE region. Entitled “From Reception to Recognition: Identifying and Protecting Human Trafficking Victims in Mixed Migration Flows - A Focus on First Identification and Reception Facilities for Refugees and Migrants in the OSCE Region”, this **needs assessment report contains targeted recommendations on how first responders can best be supported in identifying potential victims of trafficking among large flows of migrants and refugees.**

As I underscored during both the recent Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Crime, as well as the 5th Thematic session towards a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration convened at the UN Headquarters in Vienna last September, even though the primary focus of first responders has been on providing humanitarian aid, including the provision of accommodation, food and medical assistance, we argue that a harmonized and co-ordinated, multi-agency architecture is necessary to address the needs of trafficking victims, as well as mitigate the risk of human trafficking to potential victims amongst the migrant population, irrespective of their status or claims.

To this end, I praise the OSCE States most affected by the current mixed migration flows, in particular the government of Greece, Italy, and Turkey, for their readiness to support enhanced anti-trafficking responses and share their promising practices. Constantly striving to add value in the global fight against THB, I am convinced that this practical assessment can aid in the timely identification and protection of trafficking victims, as well as its prevention across and for the benefit of the whole OSCE region. We now look forward, in co-operation with OSCE participating States, to its practical implementation.

Due to their inherent vulnerability, in 2017 we also worked hard to put the spotlight on **trafficking of minors, including unaccompanied and separated children.** In particular, we focused on threats facing children in crisis situations, factors heightening child vulnerability, the adequacy of existing child protection systems, and policies and measures which foster the best interests of the child. Seeking to draw attention to these problem areas, we devoted this year’s 17th *Alliance against Trafficking in Persons* conference to the topic of “Trafficking in Children and the Best Interests of the Child”. The *Alliance* remains a very useful platform for my Office, containing over 30 partners who co-operate at the Alliance Expert Coordination Team meeting twice a year on persistent and emerging trafficking trends. This year’s 17th *Alliance* conference was attended by over 350 participants from across the 57

OSCE participating States and 11 Partners for Co-operation and included representatives of major international organizations, NGOs, academia, civil society, trade unions, think-tanks and the media. The conference focused on the identification of threats for children in crisis, promising practices for protection systems, as well as the development and implementation of policies to combat trafficking in children. Keeping in mind that children are especially vulnerable and at risk of labour and sexual exploitation, forced marriage, organ removal, begging and other criminal activities, good practices, case studies and gaps to be addressed were analyzed to develop integrated recommendations to effectively respond to child trafficking in a rights-based and child-friendly manner. The implementation of this comprehensive set of concrete recommendations was subsequently discussed at an OSCE-wide National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinators meeting organized by my Office in June, 2017.

Trafficking in human being-related risks and conflict situations has likewise remained an OSR/CTHB area of focus in 2017, due to the inescapable reality that security crises create fertile territory for human exploitation. This is particularly relevant for women who, all too often, are re-victimized for various exploitative purposes. Taking advantage of the ever-relevant intersection between the OSCE as a regional organization and the human-rights component within its comprehensive approach to security, my team and I have **raised awareness and engaged in capacity building** efforts to remedy the fact that human trafficking in the context of crisis-driven situations still goes largely unnoticed by both governmental and non-governmental actors.

In this regard, in March and November, while addressing the **UN Security Council on the occasion of its high-level debates** convened to discuss trafficking in persons in conflict situations, I strongly advocated how critical it is for the international community to adopt a multi-disciplinary, cross-sectoral and transnational approach, where inclusion, collaboration and the sharing of best practices become watchwords in our combined endeavors to ensure more effective investigations, timely prosecutions and ensure the prompt identification of victims, including, if not especially, in countries of destination of victims of trafficking. I wish to commend the UK and Italian Presidencies of the UN Security Council for convening such critical debates, and I take note of UN Secretary General Guterres' acknowledgment, in his coterminous report before the UN Security Council in November, of my Office's support to the UN current anti-trafficking-related work centred on providing training to practitioners to better identify and protect potential victims within large movements of refugees and

migrants, as well as our research aimed at analysing methods used by terrorist groups to groom, recruit and exploit victims (outlined further below).

Within the same portfolio, my Office continued to conduct **training** for staff of the **Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (SMM) on how to monitor and report trafficking related trends**. Thanks to good co-operation with Chief Monitor Ambassador Apakan and the OSCE SMM, to date we have instructed over 200 SMM monitors at a variety of locations, including Dnipro, Kharkiv, Kramatorsk, Kyiv and Mariupol. I am also pleased that my team could engage with high-level authorities and the OSCE Project Coordinator to strengthen the capacity of Ukrainian institutions to identify human trafficking trends and report on alleged cases. These initiatives are critical due to internally displaced persons remaining particularly vulnerable.

Further, since June 2017, my Office has been conducting research on **trafficking in human beings for the purposes of terrorist activities**. The research analyses cases and case studies involving trafficking acts and means used by terrorist networks for the exploitation of children and adults in militias, for sexual and labour exploitation, forced marriage, and or for other purposes. According to preliminary findings of the research, the use of ‘subtle’ means, namely coercion and abuse of position of vulnerability, are largely used to groom and recruit persons. Our research has found that the main targets of terrorist networks are foreign migrant workers and their families, minorities and other individuals with adverse circumstantial, personal or social reasons. With the overall aim of assisting the OSCE participating States in preventing this new emerging form of human trafficking, we hope to present the final findings of the research in a report in early 2018.

Finally, human trafficking is still largely overlooked in crisis situations by both governmental and non-governmental actors. In this regard, in October, my Office designed the concept of the “**Human Trafficking in Conflict and Crisis Situations**” international conference in Vienna, which we co-organized with the Austrian Task Force on Combating Human Trafficking and the International Organization for Migration. The event gathered almost four hundred participants from a wide range of OSCE participating States, Partners for Co-operation and countries outside of the OSCE area, as well as representatives of numerous international organizations, non-governmental entities, the private sector, academia, the media and the general public. The conference, and the wide media coverage it received,

provided a good awareness-raising platform on the complex challenges of trafficking in persons stemming from conflict and post-conflict areas, as well as in humanitarian settings and crisis situations. I take this opportunity to thank the Austrian Chairmanship for their commitment and support in this event and indeed in all of our joint endeavors this year.

A further key area focus of our work in 2017 has remained our ExB project “**Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings in Supply Chains through Government Practices and Measures**”. In November 2017, the Office of the Special Representative held the last of a series of five workshops on the prevention of trafficking in human beings in supply chains through government practices and measures in Geneva. Previous successful workshops were held in Berlin (September 2016), London (November 2016), Stockholm (May 2017) and Astana (June 2017), and attracted over 350 experts ranging from governments, international organizations, the private sector, and academia across 53 OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation. Each workshop was designed to raise awareness and build the capacity of participating States to prevent THB in supply chains by leveraging the power of government procurement, transparency in supply chains and fair labour recruitment. I take this opportunity to extend a warm thank you to our partners, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS). I would also like to thank the United Kingdom Home Office, the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in Germany and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany, Kazakhstan, Switzerland and Sweden for kindly hosting our project workshops and launch-event.

Based on the findings of these workshops, my Office has developed “**Flexible model guidelines for governments on preventing THB in supply chains, with a focus on government procurement, fair labour recruitment, and transparency practices**”. These model guidelines are aimed at harmonizing policies and laws across the OSCE region, so that businesses do not have to adapt to disparate regulations across different jurisdictions. I am proud of the practical achievements of our work in this area and am delighted to share that as a direct result of this project, a number of participating States have, are in the process of, or have conveyed their interest in developing relevant legislation and policies to implement appropriate measures to ensure ethical sourcing, including in their own supply chains. I am convinced that the model guidelines and the compendium of resources we developed under this project will greatly aid these efforts.

To combat THB for labour exploitation, my Office also organized the OSCE-wide Conference “**Public-Private Partnership in the Fight against Human Trafficking**” in Moscow, in co-operation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation in July. The event provided a platform for discussing the magnitude of human trafficking in the private economy, along with the roles of governments and the private sector in building upon existing experience and lessons learned from around the world. Promising prevention methods and measures to minimize the risk of human trafficking, especially for labour exploitation, were also presented. The two-day conference gathered almost 200 participants from 40 OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation, countries outside of the OSCE area, as well as representatives of numerous international organizations, non-governmental entities, the private sector (over 20 private sector representatives), trade unions, academia and the media. I thank the Russian Federation for its assistance in co-organizing this successful event with my Office and look forward to further co-operation in 2018.

Cross-cutting Issues

While ensuring that combating all forms of human trafficking remains high on participating States’ political agenda, **Country Visits** are also critical as a firm platform to engage in dialogue with national authorities, share knowledge, lessons learned, as well as exceptional models of co-operation and innovative anti-trafficking projects, to the benefit of other OSCE States. In accordance with my mandate, this year I conducted country visits to **Denmark**, **Mongolia** and the **Russian Federation**, and a follow-up visit to **Canada**. On each occasion, I was thankful to be granted the opportunity to conduct fruitful and frank meetings with governments, parliamentarians, members of the judiciary, international organizations and NGOs. After each country visit, my Office writes a country visit report, in which promising practices present in the country are highlighted, along with challenges and areas where anti-trafficking policy has the potential to be enhanced. In 2017, despite the continued long-term absence of a dedicated Country Visit Officer in my team, country **visit reports were published on Armenia, the Russian Federation and Turkey.**

Throughout 2017, I have continued to **support the work of civil society** and acknowledge its critical role. There is a need to address and alleviate the challenges faced by anti-trafficking NGOs in their daily work at the level of service provision, especially as the need to involve anti-trafficking NGOs in combating human trafficking is underlined in a number of relevant OSCE commitments. Building on foundations laid in 2016, the OSR/CTHB therefore held a

second consultation with twenty specialized NGOs from 17 OSCE participating States on the margins of the OSCE/ODIHR Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) on 19 September 2017. The results of this discussion (and another held last year in Geneva) have subsequently been complemented by an analysis of relevant legal documents and official reports from the OSCE, Council of Europe and other relevant institutions. The resulting **OSR/CTHB Occasional Paper**, to be released in early 2018 will be entitled the “**Critical Role of Civil Society Organizations in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings**”.

Work has also continued to **prevent human trafficking for domestic servitude in diplomatic households**. In May 2017, my Office, together with the Austrian Chairmanship in Office, co-organized a high-level meeting of diplomats and heads of Protocol Departments within Ministries of Foreign Affairs from across the OSCE region to meet at the Hofburg to exchange best practices and discuss ways to eradicate human trafficking for diplomatic households. I am pleased to see concrete follow-up to our publication in 2014 and I commend conference participants for having committed themselves to strengthening co-operation among participating States in combating the exploitation of private domestic staff.

Partnership and Co-ordination

There is an important caveat to the success of any strategies and initiatives to eradicate all forms of trafficking; the reality that human traffickers thrive on the loopholes and pitfalls of our coordinated responses. To end the impunity of offenders, and to protect victims, stepping up external inter-agency co-ordination therefore remains essential.

Aiming to help prevent and prosecute both traditional and emerging forms of human trafficking, I thus take great pride in our enhanced and ever more solid partnership with **the United Nations** family. As I stressed on 27-28 September 2017, upon participating in the High-Level Meeting of the plenary of the United Nations General Assembly on the appraisal of progress made in the implementation of the **United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons**, the OSCE possesses critical leverage in implementing UNSC Resolutions and THB-related agenda at the regional and sub-regional level as a regional organization under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter.

Similarly, my Office continues to pride itself on constructive and concrete partnership within the framework of the UN **Inter-Agency Co-ordination Group Against Trafficking in**

Persons (ICAT), of which the OSCE is its first partner member. This is the reason why last week, on the margins of this year's OSCE Ministerial Council, my Office, thanks to the support of the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Belarus to the OSCE, co-organized a side-event on "Improving the Co-ordination of Efforts against Human Trafficking". Our partner international agencies based in Vienna discussed challenges and opportunities deriving from new and emerging patterns in trafficking in human beings, as well as the importance of international and inter-agency co-operation in advancing the international response against human trafficking.

Co-operation between the **Council of Europe** and OSCE in the field of action against trafficking in human beings remained strong in 2017. To avoid duplication on country visits, the Council of Europe and the OSR/CTHB continue to regularly exchange information and co-ordinate visit plans. Members of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) and representatives of the Council of Europe Secretariat also participated in conferences and events organized by my Office, including the *Alliance Conference* and the "Public-Private Partnership in the Fight against Human Trafficking". Next year, the Council of Europe and my Office will jointly convene the next meeting of National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinators and Rapporteurs.

Conversely, while strong **internal co-ordination** is not an end in itself, it does hugely contribute to implementing effective mechanisms to combat THB, ensure complementarity and maximise resources. In line with its mandate, **the OSR/CTHB in 2017 therefore continued to lead the OSCE's anti-trafficking work** by investing considerable efforts in strategic co-ordination among relevant OSCE executive structures, including with Field Operations, ODIHR and TNTD/SPMU, as well as the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

To this end, the OSR/CTHB continued to work closely with anti-trafficking Focal Points based across the **OSCE Field Operations** on how best to further unite efforts to counter human trafficking. We continue to organize two meetings per year with our THB Focal Points, in April and December respectively, and a shared calendar of all relevant OSCE initiatives in this field has been developed. In June 2017, my Office hosted **a meeting of 51 National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinators and Rapporteurs** from 42 OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation in Vienna. Many Focal Points from our Field Operations also attended. During the meeting, participants discussed how best to address current human

trafficking related challenges in the OSCE region and foster the implementation of relevant OSCE commitments, including through joint action and initiatives. We continue to value this concrete co-operation and enjoy the critical support of OSCE Field Operations in all our undertakings; their grass-roots work, as well as their vital assistance in reaching out to our interlocutors on the ground cannot be stressed enough.

Similarly, in September 2017, my Office benefited from its co-operation with **ODIHR** in the organization of a Human Dimension Implementation Meeting plenary session focusing on combating trafficking in human beings. Furthermore, in October, I was pleased to moderate at a Human Dimension Seminar on child trafficking, entitled “Rights of the Child, Children in Situations of Risk”. ODIHR also participated in the National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinators and Rapporteurs meeting organized by my Office, along with the 17th *Alliance against Trafficking in Persons* Conference.

The OSR/CTHB enjoys close co-operation with **TNTD/SPMU** on issues of mutual concern, including police-related matters and the criminal justice area. My Office contributed to a regional seminar in Sarajevo in September 2017 organized by TNTD/SPMU in co-ordination with the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, IOM and UNODC. I was also delighted about the SPMU’s initiative to contribute to the 17th *Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference* from 3-4 April 2017 with a well-received thematic session on practical measures for conducting child interviews in human trafficking investigations. Furthermore, in early October 2017, to impart necessary anti-trafficking training to law enforcement agencies and the criminal justice sector, my Office contributed to a TNTD/SPMU project to train Mongolian police forces on organized crime by offering a focus on THB based on regional needs. By including a “Train-the-Trainers” element, the project also ensured that future trainings can be successfully implemented by the respective authorities themselves.

I am similarly pleased that in the framework of our efforts to prevent human trafficking in supply chains, the **Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities** (OCEEA) offered programmatic expertise related to the economic dimension of THB prevention and contributed speakers at a number of our expert discussions. So too, with the supportive guidance of the **OSCE Gender Section**, a strong gender perspective has been included in all our activities. Aside from participating in the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign, the OSR/CTHB will contribute to a “Border Security

Management Training for Mediterranean Partners” this month on conducting gender sensitive interviews to better identify victims of trafficking when speaking to girls and women crossing borders.

Outlook 2018

Looking to 2018, my Office will build upon its initiatives and achievements in 2017 in an attempt to develop innovative, practical and ultimately, sustainable strategies to assist the participating States in their efforts and commitments to tackle trafficking in persons.

Reflecting a core belief of my Office, and drawing inspiration from the recent appraisal of the UN Global Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons, the topic of next year’s 18th *Alliance Conference* will place emphasis on the fact that **a viable anti-trafficking strategy relies on comprehensive as well as effective national, regional, international and multi-agency partnerships in addressing THB**. We aim to draw attention to the need to involve key, yet often omitted anti-trafficking stakeholders such as medical practitioners, teachers, labour inspectors, non-THB-specialized police units (e.g. community or cyber police) and others who could play a more active role in identifying potential and presumed THB cases and victims and ensure proper referral and assistance.

Continuity and sustainability will also be key watchwords for our ExB project “Combating Human Trafficking along Migration Routes”. 2018 will see the development and implementation of a first **national live-simulation training exercise** for up to 70 Italian criminal justice, social and civil society actors at the Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units (CoESPU) in Vicenza, Italy. A further **Russian-language live-simulation training exercise** for up to 70 criminal justice and civil society actors will be developed in Central Asia in September 2018. Based on the data gathered during the simulation-based training and previous efforts in this direction, the OSR/CTHB, in partnership with selected participating States and international organizations, will develop **operational guidance for financial investigators** to identify and trace money stemming from human trafficking. Finally, to further contribute to the project’s sustainability, my Office will finalize a **handbook** that will provide a step-by step guide to participating States **on how to design and conduct similar simulation-based training exercises**.

As a result of the targeted needs assessment conducted in first identification and reception migrant and refugee centres in countries most affected by large migratory flows, **the OSR/CTHB will seek to promote OSCE-wide guidelines and a training module to facilitate better co-ordinated, harmonized and multi-agency identification** of human trafficking cases among mixed migration flows. I wish to commend the Italian Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact group for having devoted part of the agenda of the Ministerial Mediterranean conference in Palermo last October on migration and human trafficking related risks.

Having published our model guidelines in December 2017, at the request of the participating States we will continue our work to combat labour exploitation and **prevent trafficking in human beings in supply chains** in 2018.

We will continue conducting research on **trafficking in human beings for the purposes of terrorist activities**. Our report, which will include targeted policy recommendations for OSCE participating States, will be published in 2018. In co-operation with international partners and OSCE participating States, we plan to organise expert workshops to discuss the findings and recommendations of this research. It is tentatively envisaged that these will be held in selected areas of the OSCE, including the Balkans, Central Asia and Europe.

To enhance the capacities of participating States to monitor, detect, investigate and prevent all forms of trafficking, the OSR/CTHB will conduct research on how **Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)** can be leveraged in tackling human trafficking. This research will address both positive and negative aspects of new technologies in this area.

I also plan to continue carrying out goal-oriented **country visits**. These are planned to take place in Austria, Cyprus and Kyrgyzstan. Furthermore, I aim to conduct follow-up visits to Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Additionally, we will explore closer collaboration with the OSCE Partners for Co-operation (PfC) by developing a closer relationship with the states contributing to the Bali process. These states, as countries of origin, account for large numbers of victims exploited in domestic servitude and labour exploitation in supply chains throughout the OSCE region. As such, I believe it is critical to facilitate the exchange of promising practices and strengthen regional synergies and joint initiatives.

Having contributed to the summer session of the **OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA)** in Minsk in 2017, I look forward to strengthening co-operation with the OSCE PA further by promoting legislative reform in the sphere of anti-trafficking, including in their next summer session of the OSCE PA in Berlin, in July 2018.

Building upon the outreach visits to Ukraine conducted to date, the OSR/CTHB will likewise develop a **relevant training module for OSCE field operations on how to monitor and report on human trafficking in conflict and post-conflict situations.**

To further aid in the implementation of the recommendations deriving from the 17th Alliance on trafficking in children, and aiming to enhance the coherence of international efforts to respond to child trafficking in all its forms, the OSR/CTHB will promote further action and protection models to address child vulnerability, as well as policies and measures which foster the best interests of the child. In particular, my Office in 2018 will release an **Occasional Paper on addressing factors making children vulnerable to human trafficking.**

In conclusion, for my Office to continue assisting the implementation of each and every OSCE participating State's commitments at optimum capacity requires the full backing and support of the participating States themselves. I would therefore like to extend my thanks to all our **donors**, in particular the governments of Andorra, Austria, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Monaco, Switzerland, the United States of America and the United Kingdom, for their in-kind support. A special thanks also to Kazakhstan, the United States of America and Italy for **seconding staff** to my Office.

Given the fruitful co-operation the OSR/CTHB has enjoyed with Rome to date, I express my enthusiasm for excellent partnership in further advancing the fight against trafficking in human beings with the incoming **Italian Chairmanship.**