



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING
STATEMENT BY THE AMBASSADOR OF NORWAY
METTE KONGSHEM**

**BREAKING THE CYCLE OF TRAFFICKING THROUGH
IDENTIFICATION AND PROTECTION
WORKING SESSION 2**

Warszawa, October 3, 2006

Norway would like to present the following recommendations:

1. That all participating States sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.
2. That all participating States should sign the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.
3. That all participating States should actively implement the OSCE Action Plan Against Trafficking, including the Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan: Addressing the Special Needs of Child Victims of Trafficking for Protection and Assistance, by i.a. provide specialist care for child victims of trafficking, including centrally funded safe house accommodation. States should train officials to help identify and protect child victims of trafficking and ensure that officials in social services, police and immigration work together and are able to identify, care and protect child victims of trafficking.

Mme. Moderator,

Trafficking in human beings including forced labour constitutes a serious threat to security in the whole OSCE region. We are facing huge challenges on many levels in our efforts to eradicate this scourge. We have made some progress. At times it feels like an uphill struggle. But we have no other choice than to stay the course. This has to do with a fight for fundamental values, for respect for the human rights of every person. Norway is of the firm opinion that through its cross dimensional approach to security the OSCE is very well suited to play a leading role among relevant regional organizations in fighting trafficking.

In our view the combat against THB must be carried out on the international arena as well as on the national front.

Let me first focus on international efforts. THB has for over a decade been on the top of the international agenda. The international community has created a system of international legal instruments, rules and guidelines to prevent and combat trafficking. When the European Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings enters into force, it will ensure a protection and assistance to victims of trafficking and a robust monitoring mechanism to ensure full implementation in all 46 member states.

Let me therefore take this opportunity to urge all countries that have not already done so to sign and ratify these instruments as soon as possible. I am pleased that the EU intends to use the convention as an active instrument in their political dialogue with third countries.

In the OSCE our Action Plan and its addendum on combating trafficking in children are excellent political instruments. Dedicated implementation is now

necessary. We must make the most of the comprehensive toolkit that the Action Plan provides us with.

At the UN and in the Council of Europe, Conventions and Protocols have been adopted which constitute important milestones. Again, implementation is called for. Signing and ratifying these instruments will definitely increase the effectiveness of our counter-trafficking efforts, as concrete national measures will then have to be put in place. It is these measures which will make a difference for the victims and their possibility to escape from a situation of exploitation.

As to national efforts, Norway has made prevention of recruitment, protection of victims and prosecution of traffickers are the three major cornerstones of Norway's counter trafficking policy. Our first National Action Plan was launched in 2003 and a new version with a more integrated approach will now be presented - in which my government is taking a victim centred approach and prolonging the so-called reflection period for the victims of trafficking, and providing for better access to social services and counselling, including access to health care, in order to make it a realistic option.

The new Plan of Action will also deal with to other forms of trafficking like forced labour and trafficking in organs – which also was discussed at the 2005 High-level Conference on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Vienna. We are also especially alert to the need to protect children less than 18 years against all forms of abuse.

The plan will also focus on the so-called demand side, and aim to curtail the demand that creates a market for human trafficking. An information campaign has been launched aimed at bringing about a change of attitude. A website has

been established (Sexhandel.no) which contains information and facts about prostitution and trafficking, and offers the opportunity to participate in discussions on the web as well as counselling by phone. The website is meant to encourage a debate and to draw attention to the link between prostitution and trafficking. The target groups are young men and established customers, aimed at bringing about a change in attitudes.

Mme. Moderator,

Effective action at national, regional or international levels should mutually reinforce each other in order to achieve global goals.

Regional co-operation in combating human trafficking is another cornerstone in our efforts. Regional arrangements may take many forms. *The Nordic-Baltic Task Force is one example* - which may serve as inspiration and a model. Through different projects the Task Force aims at developing and implementing sustainable models for the transfer of knowledge, expertise and experience between key actors.

Contacts have also been established between the Task Force and the Economic Community of West African States (*ECOWAS*), and it has been decided to launch a West African regional network based on the Nordic-Baltic model experience. Such co-operation could possibly take place with other sub regional structures also within the OSCE region.

I thank you Mr. Moderator.