

Statement by the Delegation of Azerbaijan Republic

Working Session 2 – Combating trafficking in human beings, with a particular focus on trafficking in children
October 8, 2010

Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Policy on combating trafficking in human beings in Azerbaijan is based on the principles like indiscriminate against victims, safe and fair treatment of victims, effective prosecution of the related crimes, involvement of civil society and international cooperation.

The main instrument for the fight against trafficking against human beings in Azerbaijan is the National Action Plan (NAP). The first NAP approved by the President in 2004 has been implemented successfully. Currently, the second NAP which covers the years of 2009-2013 is being implemented.

Encompassing all the aspects of the combat against trafficking in human beings the NAP envisages promoting mutual cooperation among the relevant institutions, enshrines main tasks and defines the roles of the respective agencies. It also envisages the study of the best international practices and participation in international initiatives.

In accordance with the NAP below measures have been undertaken to make the fight against the relevant crimes more effective: a new institution of National Coordinator was set up, a Department for combating trafficking in human beings within the Ministry of Interior and a special police unit within the Department were established. Aiming to ensure the openness and transparency a hotline and a website of the Department have been arranged. Since 2006 Assistance Fund and Shelter for victims of trafficking have been operating, where victims receive free of charge medical, psychological, legal and other assistance. They also receive a one-time payment.

In accordance with the NAP Azerbaijan also enhanced its efforts to further improve the legislative framework. I will mention some of them: The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on combating trafficking in human beings was adopted in 2005. “The Rules for National Referral Mechanism on victims of human trafficking” and “The Rules for identification of victims of human trafficking” were approved by the Cabinet of Ministers in 2009. This year Azerbaijan joined the Council of Europe Convention on Action against trafficking in human

beings and starting from October the 1st, this year the Convention gained force in relation to Azerbaijan.

In order to increase efficiency of struggle against trafficking in human beings and learning best practices in serving victims, numerous civil servants have participated in workshops, trainings and seminars in different developed countries.

The other measures taken in the last years include the awareness-raising. With the aim of helping people not to fall victims of trafficking, different booklets were published and disseminated; a short video was prepared and broadcast. While doing so the capacity of mass media was made use of. It should be noted that some of the measures have been implemented in close cooperation with the representatives of the civil society.

Thank you!