

**OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
(Warsaw, 2-13 October 2006)
WORKING SESSION 2 and 3
Addressing factors contributing to the cycle of
Trafficking in Human Beings**

**STATEMENT OF THE DELEGATION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

IN THE RIGHT OF REPLY

Ms. Moderator,

In reference to the issues raised in the statement of the representative of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of the Republic of Macedonia I would like to highlight certain points. As mentioned by the Helsinki Committee representative special mechanisms to deal with the phenomenon of trafficking have been adopted by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia. They are established and operational, such as the National Action Plan, National Referral Mechanism, Reception and Transit Centre for Irregular Migrants and Trafficked Women, Victim Shelters etc. Awareness raising campaigns are ongoing. The capacity building of NGO's active in this sphere has been strengthened. The Macedonian Helsinki Committee, being the most recognizable and experienced one among the NGO's, has pronounced itself not only on trafficking but on other relevant human rights issues.

Besides strengthening the institutional framework the Government of the Republic of Macedonia has embarked upon reforming the legal framework. Macedonia has become party to several international legal instruments relevant for the problem of trafficking. The implementation of the UN Palermo Protocol and the European Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings are enhancing the legal capacity of our legislation.

Regarding the issues raised by the representative of the Macedonian Helsinki Committee, let me state that gender sensitivity and human rights approach are categories that are and will be taken into account by the Government when developing anti-trafficking policy. The National strategy on anti-trafficking has been designed within the Government's constant strive to adopt international standards in this regard and make them applicable. Any weakness of the system, be it of institutional or legal nature is identified and is subject to further analysis with the aim of eliminating the obstacles to better deal with the

phenomenon of trafficking and to further improve our capacities in this regard.

Trafficking is a complex problem and needs to be addressed with the joint effort of various stakeholders. At this point, let me also pay tribute to the OSCE, its Field Mission and to our bilateral partners for the assistance and the training provided.

In conclusion, we believe that the tools to fight trafficking in the Republic of Macedonia are in place. How to better use them and improve their functioning are questions asked in every day practice by the segment of our administration in charge of fighting trafficking. Within that context, the observations raised by the Macedonian Helsinki Committee will be considered.