

**OSCE Human Dimension Implementation meeting 2009**

**Canadian Statement for the Working Session 6:  
Humanitarian issues and other commitments I  
Trafficking in Human Beings**

**Thursday, 1 October 2009**

**Yves Beaulieu, Deputy Head of Mission**

Thank you,

Trafficking in human beings is a global phenomenon and a complex issue that requires serious international attention and concerted responses. We applaud the OSCE's focus on the importance of prevention.

The time is ripe for marrying what is known in the field of crime prevention, clearly articulated in such instruments as the UN Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime (2002), with what is known about trafficking in persons. Knowledge must be appropriately contextualized for a given State.

Canada was pleased to fund the European Forum for Urban Security to develop a prevention resource entitled Guidance on Local Safety Audits – A Compendium of International Practice that was published in 2008, is available in several languages, and has been broadly disseminated internationally. It documents the key steps for engaging the necessary sectors and civil society in conducting a systematic analysis of crime and victimization issues in a city, including trafficking in persons. This analysis permits the development of an effective prevention strategy.

Canada commends the dedication and excellent work of the OSCE's Special Representative and Coordinator and her team in combating human trafficking in our region, and we support the implementation of recent Ministerial Council Decisions on this important issue, which should remain a focus of our work.

Canada is actively supporting the fight against human trafficking, both within our borders as well as abroad. Domestically, we have undertaken a number of initiatives recently, including enhancing partnerships with non-governmental organizations. For example, Canada partnered with the Canadian Crime Stoppers Association to launch a national awareness campaign on human trafficking and to use Crime Stoppers' existing national tipline as a central point for the public to report suspected cases of TIP. In addition, we are continuing our efforts to address the unique needs of trafficking victims by providing foreign nationals who are suspected victims of trafficking by a fee-exempt temporary resident permit for a duration of up to 180 days. This permit enables access to health care, including counselling. This reflection period is designed to help victims of trafficking escape the influence of their traffickers, to begin to recover from their ordeal and evaluate their immigration options.

In preparation for the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games, Canada has learned from the experiences of other countries that have hosted major sporting events and continues to build on these strategies to respond to human trafficking. Recognizing that prevention and awareness campaigns, targeted training for law enforcement officials and clear protocols for responding to the needs of victims are among the necessary components of a successful strategy to address the potential increase in human trafficking around major sporting events, we are working to prevent the trafficking of persons into or within Canada as a result of the Olympics.

Canada's capacity will be enhanced to intercept improperly documented passengers destined to Canada, to train airline personnel to screen and identify inadmissible passengers, and to gather intelligence. To ensure the security of the border, a variety of risk assessment tools and programs are used to screen everyone entering Canada. In addition, an accreditation program is in place for family and participants in the 2010 games. All these mechanisms will be used to prevent potential victims from being exploited by traffickers in Canada.

Canada continues to collaborate internationally, including through prevention and awareness-raising efforts in source countries abroad, through partnerships with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and other relevant multilateral organizations, as well as with members of civil society. Canada is also set to enhance its support for international anti-crime efforts by launching an Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program for the Americas. This Program will invest up to \$15 million Canadian per year to support capacity-building initiatives in the region, and combating trafficking and migrant smuggling will be one of the Program's thematic focuses.

The OSCE has developed an expertise in combating human trafficking and is making a difference on the ground by working with countries of origin, transit and destination. By avoiding duplicative efforts with other relevant international actors, and by focusing on specific, achievable goals, we are confident that the OSCE can continue to play an important role in addressing this abhorrent global crime.

We welcome the attention this year to addressing the links between human trafficking, the current economic crisis, migration issues and labour exploitation in the agricultural sector. All these issues are pieces of a larger puzzle that needs to be better understood and addressed through concerted actions and comprehensive strategies and legal approaches both at national and sub-regional levels.

As the OSCE moves forward on implementing its Action Plan, Canada would encourage it to continue to focus on assisting participating States with the implementation of their commitments. The effective implementation of the Action Plan, which is based on the United Nations' *Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* and the *Protocol to Prevent Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children* is an issue of paramount importance.

OSCE States must strive for comprehensive and integrated strategies to prevent trafficking that are informed by clear diagnostics and governed by targeted, systematic and knowledge-based action plans. In practice this means doing what it takes to ensure that, for example, that awareness raising efforts are appropriately differentiated depending on the audience. These comprehensive strategies should exist not only at the national and regional levels, but also at the local level where trafficking is known to exist and there is clear evidence of pathways to trafficking such as commercial sexual exploitation of children.

In closing, allow me to thank the OSCE Special Representative and Coordinator and her team and to wish them much continued success. You have Canada's support.

Merci Madame la Présidente.