

Chairmanship: Kazakhstan**2010 REVIEW CONFERENCE (ASTANA)****Forward-looking discussions****Working session 4**

1. Date: Friday, 26 November 2010

Opened: 3.10 p.m.
Suspended: 6.15 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador-at-Large M. Jarbussynova (Kazakhstan)

3. Subjects discussed – Statements:

Agenda item 1: FORMAL OPENING BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OSCE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE AND A HIGH REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HOST COUNTRY

The Chairperson formally re-opened in Astana the 2010 Review Conference of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Agenda item 2: WORKING SESSIONS FOR REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF OSCE PRINCIPLES AND COMMITMENTS, INCLUDING A FOCUS ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE ACTION AND GREATER CO-OPERATION AMONG PARTICIPATING STATES

– FORWARD-LOOKING DISCUSSION OF THE THREE TOPICS SPECIFICALLY SELECTED BY PC.DEC/933 (HDF)

– FREEDOM OF MEDIA (continued)

Chairperson (RC.DEL/374/10), OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (Introducer) (RC.GAL/35/10), Germany (also on behalf of the European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia, the former

Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Iceland; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment)) (RC.DEL/361/10), Russian Federation (RC.DEL/350/10), Lithuania (RC.DEL/360/10), Tajikistan (RC.DEL/356/10), Kaznet Freedom Movement, Slovenia, Public Association “Alfa”, Association of Legal Bodies, Public Association “Taraz Press Club”, Human Rights Commission, Association of Religious Organizations of Kazakhstan, Swedish OSCE Network (RC.NGO/274/10), Newspaper “Almaty Info”, United States of America (RC.DEL/382/10), Capital Helsinki Centre, Union on Protection of the Rights and Freedom of Citizens, Public Association Independent Trade Union “Mushelyk”, Chief Editor’s Club, Almaty Confederation of NGOs “Ariptes”, Public Association “Souz Po Zachite Prav I Svobod Gragdan”, People’s Party “Alga!”, “Didar”, Public Association “Aksakaly”, Public Committee on Human Rights of the Person in the North Kazakhstan Area, United Kingdom (RC.DEL/385/10), Social Union “Asyl Mura”, Info Plus Taraz, Article 19 (RC.NGO/238/10), Norwegian Helsinki Committee, Public Association “Ariadna”, Centre for Human Rights, Private Institution “Dialog Plus”, Associazione Culturale “Giuseppe Dossetti: i Valori” (Cultural Association Giuseppe Dossetti: i Valori) – Observatory for Religious Tolerance and Freedom (RC.NGO/223/10) (RC.NGO/224/10), Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RC.NGO/209/10), Youth Media Union of Kazakhstan, Kazakh National Information Agency “Kazinform”, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Media Alliance of Kazakhstan, “Roo Ar-Namis”, Muslim Committee on Human Rights in Central Asia (RC.NGO/231/10), “Nur Media”, Institute for Reporters’ Freedom and Safety, Internet Association (Kazakhstan), Youth Public Association “Baiterek”, Turan News Agency, “Bai-Bol”, Information and Consultative Group “Perspective”, Public Association “Yereymennin Kizdary”, Belarus (RC.DEL/359/10), Public Fund “Medialife”, Holy See (RC.DEL/351/10), “Party Patriot”, Egypt (Partner for Co-operation), Foundation for the Support of Civil Initiatives

Right of reply: Kazakhstan

4. Next session:

Saturday, 27 November 2010, at 10 a.m., in the plenary hall

Forward-looking discussions

Working session 5

1. Date: Saturday, 27 November 2010

Opened: 10.15 a.m.

Closed: 1.05 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador-at-Large M. Jarbussynova (Kazakhstan)

3. Subjects discussed – Statements:

Agenda item 2: WORKING SESSIONS FOR REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF OSCE PRINCIPLES AND COMMITMENTS, INCLUDING A FOCUS ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE ACTION AND GREATER CO-OPERATION AMONG PARTICIPATING STATES

– FORWARD-LOOKING DISCUSSION OF THE THREE TOPICS SPECIFICALLY SELECTED BY PC.DEC/933 (HDF)

– INTOLERANCE AGAINST MIGRANTS (continued)

Mr. A. Halbach (Moderator), Ms. Y. Tyuryukanova (Introducer), Greece (also on behalf of the European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment)) (RC.DEL/362/10), Public Fund “Consent of the People”, Associazione Culturale “Giuseppe Dossetti: i Valori” (Cultural Association Giuseppe Dossetti: i Valori) – Observatory for Religious Tolerance and Freedom (RC.NGO/225/10), Civic Chamber (Russian Federation), Human Rights Commission, Civil Alliance of South Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan (RC.DEL/366/10), Public Foundation “Areal”, “Akmola Oblast”, Russian Federation, Centre Imran, Heidelberg Forum for Politics and Science, Kazakhstan, Social Organization “Ecol Kokshetau Burabay”, Centre for Support of Migrants (RC.NGO/239/10), Tajikistan (RC.DEL/353/10), Almaty Confederation of NGOs “Ariptes”, United States of America, Turkish Community Nurnberg, Turkish Youth Federation in Sweden, COJEP International (RC.NGO/226/10), “Roo Ar-Namis”, United Citizens

Fund, Holy See (RC.DEL/363/10), Information and Consultative Group “Perspective”, Public Fund of Education and Science, Centre for Social and Political Research, Human Rights Watch (RC.NGO/212/10), “Social Perspective”, Women’s Support Centre, National Centre for Human Rights, NGO Forum Astana, Centre for Religious Consultation, Psychology and Law, Youth Public Association “Adal”, Civil Alliance of the Karaganda Area, Association “Jel Amehaty”, Educational Cultural Centre “Irtysk”, Kazakhstan Foundation for Cultural, Social and Educational Development, Public Fund “Transparency”, Social Union “Asyl Mura”, Association of Civil Alliance, World Union of Ahiskan Turks, Turkish Community of Western Austria (RC.NGO/236/10)

Right of reply: Germany, France, Tajikistan

4. Next session:

Saturday, 27 November 2010, at 3 p.m., in the plenary hall

Forward-looking discussions

Working session 6

1. Date: Saturday, 27 November 2010

Opened: 3.15 p.m.

Closed: 6.10 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador-at-Large M. Jarbussynova (Kazakhstan)

3. Subjects discussed – Statements:

Agenda item 2: WORKING SESSIONS FOR REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF OSCE PRINCIPLES AND COMMITMENTS, INCLUDING A FOCUS ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE ACTION AND GREATER CO-OPERATION AMONG PARTICIPATING STATES

– FORWARD-LOOKING DISCUSSION OF THE THREE TOPICS SPECIFICALLY SELECTED BY PC.DEC/933 (HDF)

– COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS, WITH A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN (continued)

Chairperson, Ms. A. Revenco (Moderator), Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Introducer) (RC.GAL/38/10), Hungary (also on behalf of the European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Armenia, Georgia, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment)) (RC.DEL/372/10), Uzbekistan, Tajikistan (RC.DEL/355/10) (RC.DEL/358/10), Holy See (RC.DEL/369/10), United Nations Children's Fund, "Zharia", International Legal Initiative, Human Rights Commission, Halina Nieć Legal Aid Centre (RC.NGO/233/10), Ukraine (RC.DEL/375/10), Young Centre of the Citizens' Society, Associazione per gli Studi Giuridici sull'Immigrazione (Association for Legal Studies on Immigration) (RC.NGO/205/10/Rev.1), Kazakhstan, "Stellit", ECPAT, South Kazakhstan Citizen Alliance, Slavonic National Cultural Centre, Human Rights Watch, United States of America (RC.DEL/376/10),

Almaty Confederation of NGOs “Ariptes”, San Marino, Association of Children and Youth Organizations in Kostanai Oblast, Centre of Development and Adaption “Phoenix”, Centre Imran (RC.NGO/214/10), “Lyubystok” (RC.NGO/207/10), “Suchasnyk” (RC.NGO/208/10), Youth Media Union of Kazakhstan, Anti-Trafficking Legal Project, Finland, Azerbaijan (RC.DEL/370/10), National Centre for Human Rights, Social Union “Childhood without Borders”, Capital Helsinki Centre, Mezdunarodnya Assocjacija Socjalnyk Projektor, Pavlodar Centre of Partnership, “Roo Ar-Namis”, Educational Cultural Centre “Irtys”, Public Association “Special Olympics West Kazakhstan Oblast”, Civil Alliance of the Karaganda Area, Albania (RC.DEL/371/10), International Organization for Migration, Russian Federation, Association of Social Workers, Disabled and Volunteers, “Happy Family”, West Kazakhstan Union of Pupils of Children’s Homes, Schools and Boarding Schools, Crisis Centre for Adolescents and Youth “Oratorium”

Right of reply: Armenia (RC.DEL/380/10), Kazakhstan, Holy See

4. Next session (plenary):

Sunday, 28 November 2010, at 10 a.m., in the plenary hall

Reinforced plenary session (open)

1. Date: Sunday, 28 November 2010

Opened: 10.10 a.m.

Closed: 12 noon

2. Chairperson: Mr. U. Suleimenov (Kazakhstan)

3. Subjects discussed – Statements:

Agenda item 3: REPORTS BY THE RAPPORTEURS AND THE
CHAIRPERSON'S SUMMARY

Chairperson (Annex 1), Rapporteur of HDF sessions 1 and 4 (Slovenia) (Annex 2), Rapporteur of HDF sessions 2 and 5 (Greece) (Annex 3), Rapporteur of HDF session 6 (United States of America) (Annex 4), OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RC.GAL/36/10), Special Envoy of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office (Annex 5), Belgium-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Iceland; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (RC.DEL/381/10), National Citizens' Initiative (Armenia) (RC.NGO/234/10), Russian Federation (RC.DEL/378/10), Belarus (RC.DEL/377/10), Political Developments Research Centre (Armenia) (RC.NGO/237/10), Associazione Culturale "Giuseppe Dossetti: i Valori" (Cultural Association Giuseppe Dossetti: i Valori) – Observatory for Religious Tolerance and Freedom (RC.NGO/213/10), Weg der Versöhnung (Austrian Roundtable/Way of Reconciliation) (RC.NGO/243/10), Holy See, Armenia (RC.DEL/384/10), United States of America (RC.DEL/383/10)

Right of reply: Azerbaijan (RC.DEL/379/10), Armenia

Agenda item 4: FORMAL CLOSURE OF THE ENTIRE REVIEW
CONFERENCE

The Special Envoy of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office formally declared the 2010 Review Conference of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe closed.



17th Day of the 2010 Review Conference
RC(10) Journal No. 3, Agenda item 3

HDF SESSION 3: COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS, WITH A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN

Report by the rapporteur

The specifically selected topic “Combating trafficking in human beings, with particular focus on trafficking in children” was discussed in two sessions, with the first session having a particular emphasis on the trafficking of children for labour exploitation.

The participants underlined the importance of combating all forms of trafficking of children for labour exploitation, making particular reference to agricultural work, forced begging, illicit activities and domestic servitude.

Many participating States elaborated on their anti-trafficking efforts and presented specific measures carried out in accordance with their commitments. It was pointed out that a comprehensive approach and co-ordinated efforts on the part of participating States were crucial to addressing this problem. Particular mention was made of the co-operation between the law enforcement authorities of the countries of origin, transit and destination.

The important work of the OSCE and the ODIHR in assisting countries in their efforts was noted.

Several participants emphasized the importance of a child-sensitive and human rights-based approach to all aspects of anti-trafficking policies and activities.

Many speakers underlined the need to focus on prevention, awareness-raising efforts and early identification of victims. It was stressed that special attention should be given to such vulnerable groups of children as: migrant children with or without parental care; those without valid documents; those left behind by migrating parents; children of refugees and asylum-seekers; and children suffering from abuse and neglect, especially those marginalized or discriminated; and drop-out children. Some participants proposed including the topic of trafficking in children in school curricula. One participating State underlined the importance of monitoring mass media content in order to prevent the possible promotion of trafficking.

Considerable attention was devoted to the subject of effective access to justice for victims of trafficking, notably with reference to legal assistance and compensation for harm

suffered. Emphasis was also placed on the need to develop and support rehabilitation programmes.

During the discussions recommendations were made to the effect that the participating States should:

- Promote full implementation of their commitments;
- Facilitate better co-operation and co-ordination of anti-trafficking efforts, notably between the countries of origin, transit and destination;
- Adopt and implement a child rights approach in combating child trafficking;
- Treat those in age-disputed cases as minors, regardless of their legal status; and
- Focus efforts on preventing child trafficking.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) highlighted eight key points for the prevention of child trafficking and protection of children:

1. Prevention should go to the root causes of human trafficking in order to identify potential vulnerable groups. Programmes for the reduction of poverty and promotion of social inclusion need to be implemented;
2. Better prevention requires a reduction in demand for cheap products and services;
3. Involvement of the media will bring about better understanding of the phenomenon in civil society;
4. Improvement in the identification of potential victims and vulnerable groups requires political will as well as the specific training of relevant actors;
5. Referral mechanisms need to be put in place so that all local and national stakeholders follow a procedure ensuring that trafficked children are referred to proper care;
6. Child victims of trafficking should have a right to protection and care. They should not be detained or punished for criminal activities they have been compelled to commit or be involved in as a direct consequence of being subjected to trafficking;
7. Victims should receive compensation to enable them to reintegrate into society and avoid re-trafficking; and
8. Finally, in cases of return and reintegration of children to and in their countries of origin, the assessment of the return must be multidisciplinary and intercultural, with the analysis of each individual's situation being based on sociological, clinical, social, economical, historical and cultural factors. This requires co-operation between the countries of origin and destination. Also, repatriation and reintegration procedures and – where necessary – protection programmes should guarantee that children will enjoy the right to

education and should incorporate measures ensuring adequate welcome and care from the family or appropriate care structures.

The Alliance against Trafficking in Persons urged participating States to take measures to:

1. Promote full and effective implementation of international standards;
2. Step up efforts to prevent trafficking in children;
3. For the better prevention of trafficking in children, strengthen the care and protection of migrant, undocumented, unaccompanied, separated and asylum-seeking children;
4. Strengthen the identification of child victims of trafficking;
5. Implement durable and safe solutions based on individual case assessments.



17th Day of the 2010 Review Conference
RC(10) Journal No. 3, Agenda item 3

HDF SESSIONS 1 AND 4: FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA

Report by the rapporteur

One of the forward-looking discussions in the human dimension part of the Review Conference was devoted to freedom of the media as one of the most pertinent topics in the OSCE area. The discussions in Warsaw and Astana focused on the one hand on breaches of freedom of expression and of freedom of the media, including violent acts committed against journalists, and on the other hand on the development of electronic media and the related implications for media freedom and media pluralism.

In the session in Warsaw, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Dunja Mijatović, addressed various concerns in the field of media freedom in the OSCE area. She warned that there had been an alarming increase in violent attacks against journalists, in impunity enjoyed by perpetrators, and in passivity on the part of the authorities in investigating and publicly condemning such acts. On the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the killing of journalist Anna Politkovskaya, the Representative singled out individual cases of journalists murdered in various participating States and of journalists imprisoned for practising their profession. Threats, intimidation, administrative harassment, criminal defamation, libel laws, massive fines and vaguely defined extremism legislation all had a negative effect on free speech and media freedom and required serious attention. Although progress to date had not been insignificant in the field of media freedom, she pointed to the upcoming Summit as a unique opportunity for all to make an honest commitment to better implementation of the Organization's core values.

Many participants emphasized that freedom of expression and freedom of the media played a crucial role in protecting democracy and were vital to all other human rights. However, they also noted that no country in the OSCE area was entirely immune to shortcomings in this field and that there were signs of deterioration in the implementation of OSCE commitments. Some participants stressed that monitoring media issues and commenting on them was a matter of direct and legitimate concern to all OSCE participating States and that freedom of expression was an area of central importance not only to journalists but also to human rights defenders. A linkage between freedom of the media and free and fair elections was mentioned in several interventions.

A great majority of those who intervened expressed serious concern about violence against journalists, especially killings, which were still occurring in several participating

States. Numerous individual cases were raised, namely, those of Slavko Curuvija, Milan Pantic, Georgiy Gongadze, Vasil Klymentyev, Dusko Jovanovic, Elmar Huseynov, Hrant Dink, Ivo Pukanic, Niko Franjic, Gennady Pavlyuk, Sokratis Giolias, Oleg Bebenin, Paul Klebnikov, Anna Politkovskaya, Natalya Estemirova, Anastasia Baburova, Magomed Yevloyev, Ivan Safronov, Yury Shchekochikhin, Igor Domnikov, Vladislav Listyev and Dmitry Kholodov. Participating States were called upon to provide security for journalists, to fight the climate of impunity, and to ensure the thorough investigation of recent and unresolved past cases of attacks on media professionals and the bringing of offenders to justice. It was stressed repeatedly that impunity provoked further violence against journalists, resulting in intimidation and undesirable forms of self-censorship. One participating State reaffirmed its commitment to investigating attacks on journalists that had occurred on its territory and recognized the importance of the right of journalists to be protected, though this important topic should not be politicized or made subject to double standards.

In many statements it was underlined that the practice of imprisoning journalists for carrying out their work remained an instrument of harassment, intimidation and serious restriction of media freedom in several participating States. These statements included reports on individual cases of journalists imprisoned for critical speech, reporting on corruption or publishing classified documents. The following names were mentioned: Ramazan Yesergepov, Yevgenij Zhovtis, Eynulla Fatullayev, Muhammad Bekjanov, Yusuf Ruzimuradov, Gayrat Mehliboyev, Ortikali Namazov, Dzhamshid Karimov, Dilmurod Saiid, Solijon Abdurahmanov, Hairullo Khamidov, Abdumalik Boboyev, Vladimir Berezovsky, Ulugbek Abdusalamov and Azimzhan Askarov. Participants even called for their release, while the participating States concerned explained the reasons for their convictions and asserted the division of powers and the inadmissibility of interference in court decisions. In addition, NGO representatives reported on instances from several participating States of journalists being sentenced to pay excessive compensation sums, stating that the phenomenon hampered the work of journalists and compromised media freedom.

The importance of media plurality was repeatedly underlined, though it was stressed that the number of media outlets was not necessarily a reliable indicator for the level of media pluralism in any particular State. NGO representatives reported on various State-imposed restrictions that posed serious challenges to media plurality, such as the blockage of Internet sites, rigid registration procedures, and closures of opposition newspapers. The diversity and independence of the media was also weakened by the concentration of private media in the hands of a limited number of owners, targeted political pressures, and inappropriate digital switchovers.

Most of the NGO interventions in Warsaw and Astana were focused on assessing the situation with respect to freedom of the media in one particular participating State, with diverging views being presented. On the one hand, the majority of NGO representatives argued that promises given by the State in question prior to its holding the OSCE Chairmanship had not been kept and that there was a significant gap between legislation adopted and its implementation in the area of media freedom: all media were State-controlled, independent and opposition journalists were harassed and prosecuted, and numerous Internet sites were blocked. On the other hand, several NGO representatives argued

that in the State in question there was no State repression of the media and that everyone was free to express his or her views, to write critically and to use the Internet.

Some participating States reported on having adopted media freedom laws with the aim of bringing their legislative frameworks into line with international standards and commitments. As additional evidence of the improved situation in this field they gave information on the increasing number of media sources and outlets, also private and non-State-owned ones, on growth in the number of Internet users, and on other activities such as the training of journalists, the establishment and maintenance of relevant independent regulatory authorities, alleviation of registration procedures, and the carrying out of studies and holding of public discussions on different aspects of media freedom. One participating State reported on a Supreme Court ruling with significant implications for media freedom.

The need for high-quality and professional journalism was also highlighted in the discussions as being of crucial importance in a time of fast-growing media markets and new communication technologies. It was stressed that journalists themselves should use self-regulatory mechanisms in order to fulfil their role as key defenders of professional and ethical journalism. Journalists should aim to provide fair and comprehensive reporting. Some participants focused on the training of young journalists as a means of achieving this. A few interventions dealt with concerns regarding the spread of hate speech, intolerance and extremism on the Internet. One participating State argued that the right to express one's views was not absolute if its exercise encouraged intolerance and hatred.

Regarding the development of new media and related implications for media freedom and pluralism, the Representative on Freedom of the Media pointed out in her introductory remarks in Astana that the digital revolution had affected the media much more extensively than it had affected any other aspect of human rights. She drew attention to the commitment made by participating States in Ministerial Council Decision No. 12/04 to ensuring that the Internet remained an open and public forum for freedom of opinion and expression. Government blocking of access to Internet websites was an inadequate, inefficient and disproportionate method of combating illegal Internet content and could easily be misused for political purposes and to silence critical voices. To address legitimate concerns regarding harmful content placed on the Internet, participating States should rather encourage the application of end-user-based filtering software, but should avoid at all costs the deployment of State-level upstream filtering systems. In the context of the promotion of freedom of expression on the Internet, the Representative introduced the aim and first outcomes of a comprehensive matrix on Internet legislation currently being worked upon by her office. This matrix would provide an overview of existing international legal provisions and national legislation and of practices related to free expression and the free flow of information on the Internet. Likewise, Ms. Mijatović spoke about the challenges of an ongoing switch from analogue to digital broadcasting. She underlined that digital switchover, if carried out properly, could safeguard human rights, including media freedom and the right to access information. In this endeavour, participating States were encouraged to use the updated Guide to the Digital Switchover produced in English and in Russian by the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media, which offers practical help to stakeholders in dealing with the challenges of the digital switchover process and its implications for media freedom.

In the context of the discussion on new technologies, some participating States stressed that existing commitments on media freedom and freedom of expression applied to all media, irrespective of the technology used. While State restrictions on the Internet were unacceptable, efforts should be made to effectively combat hate speech, violence and intolerance on the Internet without jeopardizing the free flow of information. A few participating States reported on the ongoing digital switchover process and activities related to it.

The determined and transparent work of the Representative on Freedom of the Media as a media freedom “watchdog” was praised highly by many participants. She was encouraged to continue supporting and covering all 56 participating States in their endeavours, while for their part States were called on to co-operate fully with her office.

Recommendations made to the participating States

- Participating States should strengthen the implementation of OSCE commitments in the field of freedom of expression and freedom of the media, and should ensure that these commitments are applied to journalists and human rights defenders;
- Participating States should ensure that their media laws are in line with international standards and that OSCE commitments are implemented correctly;
- Participating States should ensure that journalists can work safely and without being threatened with physical violence, persecution, detention, harassment, intimidation, direct or indirect economic pressure, or any other form of interference;
- Participating States should act decisively to investigate thoroughly all acts of violence against journalists and bring offenders to justice, and to fight the climate of impunity;
- Participating States should intensify efforts to decriminalize libel and defamation;
- Participating States should take action to ensure that the Internet remains an open and public forum for freedom of opinion and expression, and to foster access to the Internet;
- Participating States should fully co-operate with the Representative on Freedom of the Media and extend open invitations to her office.

Specific recommendations made for the 2010 OSCE Summit

- Participating States should reaffirm the existing principles and commitments in the field of freedom of expression and freedom of the media and likewise reaffirm their determination to implement them;
- Participating States should consider how to enhance the implementation of commitments in this field;
- Participating States should examine how to update and strengthen commitments in this field, especially with a view to reflecting technological developments.

Recommendations made to the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

- The Representative on Freedom of the Media should continue to assist participating States in the implementation of OSCE commitments in the field of media freedom and to promote the adoption of legislation in line with international standards;
- The Representative on Freedom of the Media should continue to address new challenges and opportunities in media freedom presented by new information and communication technologies, including the Internet and the digital switchover;
- The Representative on Freedom of the Media should continue to co-operate with other regional and international organizations on media freedom issues;
- The Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media should be adequately reinforced with additional staff and budgetary resources.



HDF SESSIONS 2 AND 5: INTOLERANCE AGAINST MIGRANTS

Report by the rapporteur

The two sessions focused on three main themes: hate crimes committed against migrants, intolerant discourse, and education as preparation for living in increasingly pluralistic societies. Session 2 was moderated by Mr. Stephanos Stavros (Executive Secretary to the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance) and attracted 27 interventions, just over half of which came from representatives of civil society. Session 5 was moderated by Mr. Andreas Halbach, Chief of Mission of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and attracted 49 interventions, the vast majority of which came from NGOs, mostly from Central Asia. There were six rights of reply in total.

The first introducer, Ms. Dimitrina Petrova of the Equal Rights Trust, highlighted the significance of international migration within the OSCE area and the negative impact of the current economic downturn on the situation of migrants in the OSCE participating States. Ms. Petrova spoke about the resulting increase in the number of hate crimes committed against migrants with racist and xenophobic motives and about the phenomena of anti-immigrant rhetoric and the laying of blame upon migrants for social problems. In so doing she stressed that States had the unconditional duty to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of migrants without being swayed by public opinion. She also highlighted the vulnerability of two specific groups of migrants, namely, children and those with mental health problems. Ms. Petrova gave many examples of participating States facing problems in this field and made special mention of Roma migrants. She also described the OSCE standards on hate crime as being fully relevant to hate crime committed against migrants.

In her address, introducer Ms. Y. Tyuryunkova, Director of the Centre for Migration Investigations and Chief Researcher of the Institute of Social and Economic Population Problems of the Russian Academy of Science, stressed that the problems connected with migration were global in nature. Focusing on basic trends and parameters in one participating State, she suggested that these applied to most countries receiving migrants. Ms. Tyuryunkova referred to the increasing “feminization” of migration and to a migrant population comprising many different profiles, suggesting that these new elements rendered migration more difficult to manage and increased the need for a human rights perspective in migrants’ issues. She also mentioned knowledge of the language of the host country, access to the educational and health systems, integration into social networks, and experiences with

the law enforcement authorities as factors relating to intolerance and noted that negative perceptions of migrants often reach alarming levels, creating a climate of intolerance.

A large number of participants emphasized that full protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants was essential. A large number of participants stressed the need to combat racism, xenophobia, and hate crimes committed against migrants with a racist or xenophobic motive. The issue of under-reporting hate crimes was highlighted, as was the need for the proper investigation, prosecution and public condemnation of such crimes.

A number of NGOs focused on manifestations of intolerance against Muslims, pointing out the existence of prejudice and stereotyping. One NGO mentioned that associating Muslims with terrorism had become a source of intolerance in certain participating States. A number of participants mentioned Islamophobia as a widespread phenomenon in many participating States.

Some NGOs also mentioned phenomena of intolerance towards migrants based on ethnic grounds. Furthermore, a few participants raised the issue of intolerance towards Roma and touched upon the associated misconceptions and negative stereotypes.

Most delegations stressed the need to give special attention to female migrant workers, who are often confronted with gender-specific problems.

A number of NGOs pointed to the emergence of far-right political parties openly demonstrating racist and xenophobic attitudes. A few NGOs stressed that such parties exert an influence on mainstream political parties and negatively affect public discourse on migration issues.

Many interventions focused on public discourse. Some NGOs referred to hate speech as a phenomenon that should not be tolerated. Some NGOs made references to books and public statements with xenophobic and racist overtones authored by well-known personalities, to surveys that suggest discriminatory attitudes, and to media coverage propagating stereotypical images of Muslims and/or Muslim migrants in particular countries. A few NGOs also cited the electoral campaigns of certain political parties as projecting xenophobic messages.

Most delegations emphasized that respect for freedom of expression might be qualified only in order to curb public incitement to racist and xenophobic violence.

Some participants stressed that discrimination against migrants led to unemployment and exclusion and called for the adoption and implementation of legislation and fact-based policies against discrimination in several areas, including employment.

The representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees recalled that racism and xenophobia were faced not only by migrants, but by stateless persons, refugees and asylum-seekers. The representative of the Council of Europe suggested that policies adopted in some countries had a detrimental effect on integration and pointed out that migrants should enjoy full protection of their rights in host countries, including social rights. The representative of the IOM predicted that migration flows would increase in the future,

called for the adoption of national legislative and administrative frameworks for the protection of the human rights of migrants, and stressed the need to publicly highlight the positive contribution made by migrants in their host countries.

Most participants spoke of the need to emphasize, through educational measures, the significance of cultural and religious pluralism as a source of mutual enrichment and to systematically promote mutual respect and understanding.

Most participants also stressed the significance of integration, as a two-way process of mutual interaction, involving also the acquisition by migrants of those skills and abilities that can facilitate their participation as members of the host society. In this context, particular emphasis was given to the acquisition of language skills.

A few NGOs also mentioned the need for migrants to be offered support in preserving their native language.

Most delegations mentioned the need for a comprehensive approach to migration issues, and stressed that poorly managed migration may disrupt the social cohesion of countries of destination, including by exacerbating xenophobic attitudes. They also spoke in favour of a cross-dimensional approach to migration issues in the OSCE.

Most delegations emphasized that the existing OSCE human dimension commitments and the OSCE general approach to combating racism and xenophobia provided participating States with valuable means of dealing with intolerance towards migrants.

Most participants commended the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights for its contributions, notably its data collection and technical assistance to participating States concerning hate crimes, and expressed their appreciation of the role played by the Chairperson-in-Office's Personal Representatives on Tolerance and Non-discrimination.

Recommendations to participating States included the following:

- Improve implementation of existing OSCE commitments, especially those relating to combating racism and xenophobia;
- Improve implementation of OSCE commitments on combating hate crimes;
- Promote a dialogue between Muslim representatives and the religious communities present in places where mosques are to be constructed; and
- Raise awareness of the social and economic challenges faced by migrants.

Recommendations to the OSCE included the following:

- Hold a Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on racism and xenophobia in 2011;
- Adopt an OSCE definition of Islamophobia;

- Hold a high-level conference on discrimination against Muslims and adopt a relevant OSCE Ministerial Council Decision;
- Set up special units within OSCE field missions to focus on migration issues;
- Set up a structure to co-ordinate migration issues in the OSCE area; and
- Develop guidelines and training manuals for State officials working in the field of migration.



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HDF SESSION 6: COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS, WITH A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN

Report by the rapporteur

The Chairperson-in-Office specifically selected the theme of child trafficking for the assignment of high priority at the special session of the 2010 Review Conference on combating human trafficking. The topic of “combating trafficking in human beings, with a particular focus on trafficking in children” was discussed during working sessions in Warsaw and in Astana. The working session in Warsaw focused on child trafficking for labour exploitation, the challenges and the progress accomplished to date (see report by the rapporteur on HDF session 3 for details). The Astana working session looked at the prevention of child trafficking, the protection of victims and the vulnerabilities of certain groups such as migrant children, and undocumented, separated, unaccompanied and asylum-seeking children. Importantly, the Astana session identified additional groups of potentially vulnerable children, such as minority children, children of undocumented parents, street children, children in institutions or orphanages, children of victims of human trafficking, children with drug addictions, children in abusive and dysfunctional families, and children of families living in poverty. Many presentations included details about ongoing efforts and initiatives by governments and by NGOs. Speakers acknowledged the work of the OSCE, the ODIHR, the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons, and the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, as well as the important role played by civil society and NGOs in combating human trafficking.

In summary, the key issues and challenges raised by speakers in Astana and Warsaw include:

- The importance for participating States to reiterate their resolve to combat human trafficking, including child trafficking, and to fully implement existing commitments;
- Human trafficking as a transnational threat to security that affects all 56 participating States;
- The right of children to be protected unconditionally;
- The need to expand co-operation and co-ordination of anti-trafficking efforts at the national level, and in countries of origin, transit, and destination;

- The relatively small number of children identified as victims, compared to the large estimated numbers;
- The need to expand the list of groups of children who may be particularly vulnerable to being trafficked, to include children living in poverty, children of undocumented parents, migrant or minority children, children living in institutions and orphanages, children in abusive or dysfunctional families, children of trafficked victims or drug addicts, child domestic workers, marginalized and stateless children, among others.
- The discrimination faced by some groups of children such as those who are undocumented, and migrant children or minority children, whose situation or status prevents them from being properly identified and assisted as potential victims;
- The frequent failure of undocumented migrants to register the birth of their children or send them to school, for fear of being detained or deported, thereby rendering the children more vulnerable to human trafficking;
- The negative effects of detention on children and the problems some children face when repatriated without proper pre-departure assessment and follow-up;
- The need to raise public awareness of the harmful consequences associated with the use of goods and services derived from victims of forced labour and other types of exploitation.

Key recommendations put forward were to:

- Expand opportunities for the exchange of best practices and experiences in preventing and combating child trafficking, such as web conferences and youth conferences, and development of a questionnaire to help identify child victims;
- Develop initiatives targeting vulnerable groups of children at high risk of being trafficked, taking into consideration the expanded list of vulnerable groups identified during the Astana working session;
- Fight discrimination against children and youth belonging to particular groups, in an effort to prevent them from being vulnerable to exploitation and child trafficking by providing access to education, health care and social services to all children, and including the issue of human trafficking in school curricula;
- Adopt and implement a child-rights approach for determining durable and longer term solutions, taking into account the best interests of the child, including for cases of repatriation;
- Provide age-appropriate protection and assistance for child victims and potential victims, including physical and psychosocial support, access to education and welfare assistance as appropriate, and child-friendly interviews;

- Improve identification of victims, including victims of child trafficking for labour exploitation, and enhance efforts to combat the worst forms of child labour, and assume that potential victims are underage until a proper determination can be made;
- Enhance child-friendly justice systems, with the appointment of guardians or representatives, as applicable, and facilitate children’s access to justice, including provision for compensation;
- Explore alternatives for the detention of children, such as their placement in foster care, and develop guidelines for the purpose;
- Sensitize the media to the issue of human trafficking, including child trafficking, in order to avoid stigmatization, and breach of confidentiality or of the right to privacy;
- Include children and youth in the development and implementation of child-protection measures, including measures against child trafficking, and in the organization of events, at the level of participating States and in the context of the OSCE;
- Involve civil society, businesses and companies in raising awareness regarding the issue of trafficking of children for labour exploitation and identification of potential victims.

In conclusion, the theme of child trafficking chosen by the Chairperson-in-Office as a focus for the special session on combating human trafficking proved to be very relevant and opportune, based on the highly productive discussions generated in Warsaw and Astana. The many challenges raised over the course of the Review Conference confirmed the need to make combating child trafficking in all its forms a matter of priority for all. There was also a broad consensus on the need to strengthen co-ordination efforts and to fully implement all commitments, taking into consideration the special needs of children. The numerous interventions by NGOs showcased the invaluable role they play in this complex issue. The connections and convergences, in some cases, of transnational organized crime, illicit drug and firearms trafficking, money-laundering and human trafficking point to the need for enhanced co-operation at the national, subregional and cross-regional levels in order to carry out a comprehensive and multi-dimensional response to this transnational threat. While the Review Conference confirmed that much work remains to be done, it also confirmed a strong resolve across the OSCE to combat this scourge and protect the victims.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Review Conference
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Annex 5

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CHAIRPERSON'S SUMMARY OF THE 2010 REVIEW CONFERENCE

Dear colleagues,
Distinguished participants in the Review Conference,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me congratulate all the participants in the 2010 Review Conference for the important and far-reaching work that we have completed in last three months. The in-depth look into the status of implementation of the whole range of commitments across the OSCE has definitely proved to be vital and valuable.

I believe that the Review Conference has successfully achieved its main goal, namely, to “review the entire range of activities within the OSCE, including a thorough implementation debate, and consider further steps to strengthen the OSCE process”.

The Warsaw, Vienna and Astana parts of the Review Conference afforded an excellent opportunity to review and assess where we stand and how we can do better – across the board.

The 1992 OSCE Helsinki Summit clarified the role of review conferences in a new political setting. The review process was to be co-operative in nature, comprehensive in scope and at the same time able to address specific issues and improve the current state of affairs.

I hope that the 2010 Review Conference provided a chance for the participating States to share experiences among themselves and afforded an opportunity to identify action that may be required to address problems.

The Civil Society Forum which took place here, in Astana, on 26 November, has once again highlighted the important role of civil society and non-governmental organizations in reminding us that the focus of our efforts in all the dimensions is to improve the lives, security and rights of the real people who live in all our participating States.

In this regard, let me express my sincere gratitude to the representatives of civil society for their active participation and the valuable contribution they made during the entire Review Conference. As has been pointed out, the great value of the OSCE meetings resides

in the ability of civil-society organizations to take an active part in these meetings in order to foster a dialogue between governments and civil society.

Now, let me share with you the main findings of our discussions during the Review Conference in the context of the four segments: the politico-military, economic and environmental, and human dimensions, and OSCE structures and activities.

Politico-military dimension

During the politico-military segment, we covered a wide range of issues related to transnational threats and challenges, including action to combat terrorism, organized crime and drug trafficking; cyber security; early warning, conflict prevention and resolution; crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation; border security; arms control and confidence- and security-building regimes; the Vienna Document 1999; and SALW and non-proliferation.

The debates within the politico-military dimension confirmed once again that collective efforts and political will are the most important elements for the effective resolution of issues and the combating of threats and challenges faced by the OSCE area.

During the discussions on transnational threats and Afghanistan, the participating States reviewed the progress our Organization has made in combating transnational threats, such as terrorism, organized crime and trafficking, and the unique capabilities we have developed in police training and border security, while acknowledging that more could be done to make these efforts more focused, more coherent and more compatible with the work of other international actors. They recognized that the nature of transnational threats required closer co-operation with Partner states, and strong support was expressed for an intensified, broad-based programme of co-operation with Afghanistan, drawing on the OSCE's strengths and experience across the three dimensions.

Early warning, conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, especially in respect of protracted conflicts, continued to be at the core of the OSCE agenda.

The participating States recalled recent efforts aimed at the settlement of protracted conflicts, reaction to crisis situations and contributions to post-conflict rehabilitation, as well as proposals in that area put forward in the framework of the Corfu Process. They recognized that the OSCE should serve as a primary instrument for conflict settlement, while acknowledging that it would be in the common interest of all to strengthen the Organization's capacities, in all phases of the conflict cycle.

The participating States stressed that the OSCE field operations can and do play a critical role in early warning and conflict prevention, and welcomed the opportunity to explore further how field operations might engage in mediation at the local level, how they could engage on regional issues and how their analytical capacity might be strengthened.

Some participating States noted that, even though field operations are the primary vehicle for OSCE activities in the field, at the same time, additional types of presence, such as support teams, liaison teams and regional offices, where appropriate, should be explored.

The participating States underscored the view that, in order for field operations to continue to be effective, further consideration must be given to how to resource and manage them.

The participating States emphasized that a well-functioning arms-control regime and a comprehensive set of confidence- and security-building measures were pivotal for indivisible and co-operative security in the OSCE area. The ongoing discussions on the future of conventional arms control in Europe should be continued in a constructive manner and to the benefit of the security of all the OSCE participating States.

Important steps have been taken this year to update our main confidence- and security-building tool, the Vienna Document 1999. We have committed ourselves to strengthening this key politico-military document in order to increase military transparency and build further confidence. The work has started in the Forum for Security Co-operation, and the existing momentum should be safeguarded, also beyond the Summit, with a view to making significant progress in 2011.

The participating States noted that another key task for the OSCE was the fight against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and action to tackle the problems of loosely guarded and unstable conventional ammunition. Vigorous implementation of the recently adopted plan of action would ensure a continued and significant contribution by the OSCE to global efforts in the field of SALW. The OSCE also had the potential to play an increasing role in countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and furthering the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540.

Economic and environmental dimension

During the part of the Review Conference devoted to the economic and environmental dimension, the participating States stressed that that dimension remained indispensable for their common security, sustainable development and economic growth. The OSCE should continue to play an active role in fostering international co-operation and promoting good governance in the economic and environmental fields, and should reinforce its efforts in areas such as migration, transport and energy security.

It was stressed that, in achieving those goals, the OSCE required a renewed strategic vision, as well as intensified concrete action. The participating States proposed such measures as reviewing the Maastricht Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension; ensuring closer co-ordination between the Economic and Environmental Committee, the Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities and economic and environmental officers in the field operations; and creating synergies with the UN Economic Commission for Europe and other partner organizations.

Human dimension

During the human dimension segment of the 2010 Review Conference, the participants reviewed the progress our Organization has made in respect of human dimension issues since the 1999 Istanbul Review Conference, and made recommendations for bolstering the collective ability of the OSCE participating States to tackle existing challenges in the areas of democratic institutions, fundamental freedoms, the rule of law, humanitarian issues,

tolerance and non-discrimination, as well as in regard to specially selected topics relating to the freedom of the media, intolerance against migrants, and trafficking in human beings, with a particular focus on trafficking in children. Let me reflect briefly the main lines of the discussions during these sessions.

Democratic institutions

The participating States stressed the importance of democratic institutions for the development of democracies, and democratic elections were recognized as being central to that endeavour.

Most of the participating States called attention to the need to enhance efforts to fully implement the OSCE election-related commitments, to follow-up on election observation reports, and to continue to develop the capacity of national observers to monitor domestic electoral processes.

The majority of the speakers commended the election observation methodology of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, including its long-term observation activities, and referred to the need for better follow-up to the recommendations contained in election reports.

Fundamental freedoms

The participating States recognized that freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, freedom of assembly and association, and freedom of movement were fundamental human rights and were intrinsic to any democratic society.

They noted that national human rights institutions could contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights by processing complaints, adopting a critical approach in respect of the protection of human rights, and promoting education on human rights.

The ODIHR and field operations were called upon to assist the participating States in reviewing legislation and practice with regard to international and regional human rights, to continue to engage with national human rights institutions across the OSCE area, and to strengthen their capacity to promote and protect, monitor and report on respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The participating States stressed the need to protect human rights defenders throughout the OSCE area and to continue co-operation among the OSCE participating States on issues concerning freedom of movement.

Rule of law

The participating States stressed the importance of the rule of law as a fundamental element for the development of any democratic society.

It was emphasized that the judiciary should preserve its independence by introducing several safeguards against any kind of influence, particularly those of a political nature. Those measures, among others, should include: transparent terms of appointment; guaranteed

tenure; specialization of judges; fair and independent disciplinary proceedings; and the provision of the relevant working conditions, resources and salaries.

They recognized that, in order to improve the rule of law in the OSCE area, additional measures were needed including:

- The introduction and application of objective criteria and transparent procedures for selecting and appointing judges; establishment of an efficient system for the publication of judicial decisions, and provision of access to them by the public; the establishment and maintenance of respect for and trust in the justice system through timely and efficient enforcement of judgments; and the provision of adequate resourcing to enable the judiciary to properly perform its functions;
- The guaranteeing of fair, timely and effective judicial proceedings, including protection of witnesses and respect of the rights of defendants;
- Strengthening of the institution of official legal aid; and
- Assurance of transparent and inclusive legislative processes reflecting the will of the people.

It was noted that the adoption of national preventative mechanisms and the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment were important steps in preventing torture in the OSCE participating States.

Humanitarian issues and other commitments

The participating States emphasized that the issue of displacement was becoming more complex as a result of the global economic crisis. They noted that statelessness and the absence of any solution for refugees in protracted displacement remained among the major challenges. They recognized that human rights education not only provided knowledge about human rights and the mechanisms that protected them, but also imparted the skills needed to promote, defend and apply human rights in daily life.

Tolerance and non-discrimination issues

The statements by the participants highlighted the gap between existing legal frameworks and political commitments on the one hand, and the reality of Roma and Sinti communities on the other. The participating States stressed the need to ensure the necessary administrative and financial resources for implementing policies for Roma and Sinti integration and to step up efforts to combat discrimination at all levels, in particular in regard to educational and residential segregation, as well as to engage in partnership with the Roma and Sinti civil society and communities.

The participating States discussed ways of promoting gender balance, and implementation of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality. They stressed the need for the adoption of legislation for combating gender-based discrimination and violence against women, the establishment of national institutions mandated to promote

gender equality, and the undertaking of comprehensive gender mainstreaming of all public policies and programmes.

The participating States acknowledged that racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, discrimination and intolerance, including against Muslims, Christians, Jews and others, was a major challenge to social cohesion and human rights across the OSCE area.

They emphasized that positive steps, such as awareness-raising, the development of educational tools, and promotion of the establishment of national institutions and specialized bodies needed to be continued by the participating States.

Forward-looking discussions

Freedom of the media

The participating States stressed that development of electronic media, including digital switchover in broadcasting, demanded new approaches to safeguarding of the freedom of the media.

The participants drew attention to the violent acts committed against journalists in the OSCE area and the role of authorities in carrying out successful investigations and thereby protecting journalists and the free media. It was noted with regret that the number of unresolved cases of violence against journalists in the OSCE area had increased, and it was stressed that the participating States needed to undertake urgent steps to tackle that challenge.

The participants stressed that imprisoning journalists for carrying out their work remained an instrument of harassment, intimidation and serious restriction of freedom of the media in several participating States. Great appreciation was expressed of the work of the Representative on Freedom of the Media as a media freedom “watchdog” by many participants.

Intolerance against migrants

The participating States and representatives of civil society stressed the need to improve policies related to addressing the problems of hate-motivated crimes against migrants. The issue of underreporting was identified as one of the main causes tending to create a climate of impunity for perpetrators and of fear for victims’ communities. Several participants made special reference to the phenomenon of intolerance against Muslims, pointing at the existence of prejudice and stereotyping directed against them, as well as at the emergence of far-right political parties with racist and xenophobic attitudes.

The participants noted that educational programmes for promoting tolerance and mutual understanding were all crucial instruments for achieving positive results.

Combating trafficking in human beings, with particular focus on trafficking in children

The participating States recognized the vulnerability of children to trafficking for labour exploitation, including in agricultural work, domestic work or factory work, or for begging and illicit activities.

They noted that many children belonging to vulnerable groups, such as migrant children, undocumented children, and separated, unaccompanied and asylum-seeking children faced difficulties in accessing existing child-protection and social-welfare systems. The participants noted that States needed to ensure that outreach to vulnerable children was improved and all authorities and those who came into contact with children were adequately trained and able to provide child-friendly services. The particular role of civil society actors in reaching out to vulnerable children and establishing trust between the children and State services was acknowledged.

OSCE structures and activities

Finally, the participating States stressed the need to strengthen co-ordination among the OSCE executive structures, in particular in dealing with all stages of the conflict cycle and in addressing transnational threats and challenges to security. A wide range of unresolved problems pertaining to the management of human and financial resources were acknowledged by the participating States. It was proposed to pursue an incremental approach to improving the Organization's Financial Regulations. The participating States also proposed improvements to the process for planning the programme budget, and stressed the need to improve the effectiveness of the OSCE's secondment system. To those ends, it was proposed to strengthen the role of the Secretary General, while respecting the mandates of other executive structures.

The participating States called for a strengthening of the OSCE institutions. Most stressed the need to preserve their functional autonomy and to improve implementation of their recommendations by the participating States, while some others emphasized seeking to improve their working methods and accountability to the participating States. Similarly, proposals for strengthening the effectiveness of field activities ranged from proposals to expand the OSCE's field presences in some regions to calls for a gradual transfer of their responsibilities to host countries.

A wide range of proposals were made, aimed at strengthening the OSCE as a forum for political dialogue, including improvement of the joint FSC-PC decision-making procedures and of approaches designed to guarantee the openness of the OSCE meetings to civil society. Many participating States underscored the need to enhance the OSCE's legal framework through the early adoption of the agreed draft convention on the international legal personality, legal capacity, and privileges and immunities of the OSCE, while proposals were made for the adoption of a charter or statute for the Organization.

Distinguished Conference participants,

Needless to say, the peer review which we have submitted ourselves to in the past three months has clearly shown that gaps in implementation are to be found everywhere across the OSCE, be it in the West or in the East. The frank discussion that has taken place among us on ways to make serious progress in addressing these gaps, as well our strong recommendations, will undoubtedly contribute to the success of the forthcoming Astana Summit.

I hope that the Astana Summit will mark a new historic stage in building a community of truly comprehensive and indivisible security in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian area.

Allow me, once again, to express my gratitude to all the participants, and let me wish all of us a successful Astana Summit!

Thank you.