

562nd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 562, Agenda item 8

**DECISION No. 685
ADDENDUM TO THE OSCE ACTION PLAN
TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS:
ADDRESSING THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF CHILD VICTIMS OF
TRAFFICKING FOR PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE**

The Permanent Council,

Reaffirming the strong OSCE commitments of participating States in the field of prevention and combating trafficking in human beings, as well as the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings,

Recalling Sofia Ministerial Council Decision No. 13/04 on the Special Needs for Child Victims of Trafficking for Protection and Assistance and its tasking to develop an addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings (PC.DEC/557 and MC.DEC/2/03),

Mindful of the need to identify and support the development of best practices in assisting child victims and to act at all times in the best interests of the child,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of children in conflict and post-conflict situations and of their need for security and protection for the fulfilment and enjoyment of their rights,

Drawing upon existing regional experiences such as the UNICEF Guidelines for the Protection of the Rights of Children Victims of Trafficking in South Eastern Europe, endorsed in the Statement on Commitments on Victim/Witness Protection and Trafficking in Children by the Fourth Regional Ministerial Forum of the Stability Pact Task Force on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Sofia 2003,

Supports the following based on principles of respect for human rights, gender perspective and the best interests of the child to be used by States in addressing the special needs for protection and assistance of trafficked children; and

Decides to attach the Addendum annexed to this Decision to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings* as an integral part and to recommend the endorsement of this decision by the Ministerial Council.

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See Permanent Council Decision No. 557/Rev.1.

**ADDENDUM TO THE OSCE ACTION PLAN
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Recommended actions at the national level:

1. Ensuring that child trafficking, including internal trafficking, is criminalized in accordance with the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000, in order to better address the need for protection and assistance of child victims of trafficking;
2. Establishing and/or strengthening effective policies and programmes to prevent trafficking in children, and reducing children's vulnerability by promoting a protective environment in general through strengthening relevant institutions and regulations, reducing poverty and preventing violence against children;
3. Developing, where necessary, national co-ordinating and referral mechanisms to specifically address protection and assistance measures which focus on the special needs of child victims of trafficking and ensure that child victims are referred expeditiously to appropriate services. Forming partnerships with civil society to develop a comprehensive approach to protect and assist child victims of trafficking;
4. Facilitating research and gathering data, including for the purpose of strengthening protection and assistance programmes, on the extent of all forms of child trafficking in their countries, and making the data publicly available. Strengthening co-operation and improving exchange of information among States with a view to preventing child trafficking and protecting and assisting child victims, including in conflict and post-conflict situations;
5. Facilitating special training for law enforcement and direct service personnel on proper and effective methods to identify child victims of trafficking. Any child presumed to be a victim of trafficking shall be referred without delay for appropriate assistance;
6. Following identification, providing child victims of trafficking, when necessary, with a guardian and/or legal representative at all stages of the assistance, (re)integration and/or return and to ensure protection of their human rights;
7. Developing child-friendly procedures related to criminal and civil proceedings, from initial questioning to the conclusion of the proceedings which are consistent with the rule of law;

8. Providing in appropriate cases presumed child trafficking victims who are not nationals or residents of the country in which they are identified with appropriate status entitling them to stay, at least temporarily, in the country and be eligible to receive immediate assistance which should include safe shelter, medical and psychological care, legal assistance, social services and education;
9. Processing every child trafficking case individually and making every effort to find a durable solution which will result in one of three options: (a) Return to and reintegration in the country of origin; (b) Local integration into the country in which they are identified; and (c) Relocation to a third country;
10. Making available special assistance and protection when it is in the best interest of the child to return him/her to the country of origin, providing returning children with appropriate care for the return process and supporting the monitoring, by the authorities in the country of origin of their well-being upon return;
11. Strengthening structures to promote social inclusion and (re)integration of child victims of trafficking in countries of origin and destination, taking into account the special needs of children;
12. Encouraging print and broadcast media to develop and promote a professional ethic related to the special treatment of child victims of trafficking in order to avoid the further exploitation and victimization of children, in particular by protecting the identity of children;
13. Addressing the use of the Internet in facilitating the trafficking of children for sexual exploitation and developing measures to combat it, including the exchange of images and other information in accordance with national law, in particular via the international database of child abuse images housed by Interpol with a view to identifying and protecting child victims as well as identifying their abusers.