
Second day of the Twenty-Fourth Meeting
MC(24) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 7

DECISION No. 6/17
STRENGTHENING EFFORTS TO PREVENT
TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming that trafficking in human beings is a grave and heinous crime that violates human dignity and that all aspects of combating human trafficking should be firmly based on the rule of law and respect for human rights,

Reaffirming our strongest condemnation of all forms of trafficking in human beings, including for the purpose of labour and sexual exploitation, child trafficking, forced criminality, as well as for the purpose of organ removal, and recognizing that the prevention of this crime is a priority,

Reaffirming also our commitment to addressing factors that make persons more vulnerable to trafficking and emphasizing the importance of a cross-dimensional and comprehensive approach to combating trafficking in human beings, which requires a focus on carrying out effective prevention measures,

Recalling the 2003 OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings and its Addenda, which stress the importance of comprehensive prevention measures, including measures to address demand, and reaffirming all OSCE commitments in the field of combating human trafficking,

Reiterating our support for the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementing Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, as the international legal framework for combating trafficking in persons, and the importance of the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,

Recalling the relevance for the prevention of and fight against trafficking in human beings of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) if they are a party,

Noting that enhanced judicial and law enforcement co-operation and co-ordination among participating States and Partners for Co-operation, including effective border security

and management may contribute to preventing human trafficking, *inter alia*, by disrupting and dismantling related transnational criminal organizations and by prosecuting the perpetrators,

Stressing the importance of the implementation of international labour standards as applicable within efforts to prevent human trafficking and taking note of international labour instruments, such as the 2014 Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), the 2014 Forced Labour (Supplementary Measures) Recommendations (No. 203) and the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) and its Recommendation (No. 201) which also contain good practices on prevention of human trafficking for labour exploitation,

Commending participating States that require contractors supplying goods and services to the government to take effective and appropriate steps to address the risks of human trafficking in their supply chains, including steps that aim to prevent subcontractors and employees from participating in activities known to lead to human trafficking. Also commending those States that encourage the private sector to consider the risks of human trafficking in their own operations and in those of their subcontractors and suppliers, aiming to ensure that they address risks proactively,

Recognizing the contribution of civil society, including religious organizations, in preventing trafficking in human beings, and in assisting its victims,

Calls on participating States to:

1. Develop targeted prevention policies based on, as appropriate, enhanced research and systematically gathered reliable information, including with the support of national mechanisms, such as national rapporteurs where they exist, in order to maximize the effect and impact of anti-trafficking efforts at the national and international level;
2. Promote dialogue and co-operation among governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector, including businesses, and trade unions and employers organizations as social partners, with a view to enhance efforts to prevent human trafficking, *inter alia* through increasing awareness of each actor's role and through facilitating the exchange of information on human trafficking among countries of origin, transit and destination, including the Partners for Co-operation, and recognizing the importance of the voice of victims of human trafficking in elaborating effective anti-trafficking strategies;
3. Continue to use the OSCE as a platform for dialogue on judicial and law enforcement co-operation, border security and management as an important element to prevent trafficking in human beings;
4. Promote multi-agency, cross-sectorial and multinational capacity-building programmes that foster measures to prevent human trafficking in all of its forms, with a particular focus on factors that make people vulnerable to trafficking;
5. Take appropriate measures for effectively combating human trafficking, by developing harmonized procedures and training courses, *inter alia* on identification and protection of trafficking victims, including for relevant authorities, civil society organizations, health care and social workers as well as others that may have first contact with victims;

6. Strengthen education and awareness-raising efforts, including human rights education, and develop and implement empowerment programmes which take into account the particular needs of women, men, girls and boys, in order to enhance the capacity to recognize, prevent and fight human trafficking within communities;
7. Adopt a victim-centred, trauma-informed and, in that respect and in line with Ministerial Council Decision No. 14/06, gender-sensitive approach, that fully respects human rights and fundamental freedoms in all preventive and assistance efforts;
8. Recognize the important contribution that media can make to the prevention of human trafficking, *inter alia*, through the adoption of voluntary professional standards to responsibly and sensitively cover cases of human trafficking;
9. Identify, develop and share best practices, including as contained in the 2013 Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings: One Decade Later, for successful national and global partnerships between the public and private sector in combating human trafficking, to promote respect for human rights and corporate social responsibility, including through public awareness-raising about the risk of human trafficking in production and sources of goods and provision of services;
10. Encourage the private sector to adopt policies and procedures to prevent all forms of human trafficking, to be actively involved in multi-stakeholder efforts, to develop awareness about the risks of human trafficking and to take into account best practices such as establishing independent monitoring, verification and certification mechanisms to document compliance with and implementation of codes of conduct or self-established ethical standards, including through providing incentives for businesses to act with due diligence and transparency to prevent the abuse and exploitation of workers throughout their supply chains and to enable a level playing field for responsible companies;
11. Promote policies, in complementarity with national legislation, that take into account whether businesses are taking appropriate and effective steps to address the risks of human trafficking, including with regards to their subcontractors and employees, when considering the awarding of government contracts for goods and services;
12. Take appropriate measures to identify and eradicate the abusive and fraudulent recruitment and employment practices which can lead to trafficking for labour exploitation, sexual exploitation, for forced criminality, or other forms of trafficking, including measures to promote clear criteria for the official registration of recruitment and placement agencies and through reinforcing the role of competent authorities, such as labour inspectors;
13. Promote measures to prevent and address the use of forced labour by diplomatic and other personnel of diplomatic missions and consular posts and international organizations, and promote a zero-tolerance policy for trafficking by such personnel, and take into account international best practices as compiled, for example, in the OSCE Handbook on how to prevent human trafficking for domestic servitude in diplomatic households and protect private domestic workers, and noting that many such measures are consistent with the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic Relations and Consular Relations as well as headquarter agreements of international organizations and recognizing that the Vienna Conventions

include a duty to respect the laws and regulations of the receiving State, including those designed to prevent and address human trafficking;

14. Task the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and, as appropriate, other relevant executive structures in accordance with their mandates and in co-ordination with the OSCE Special Representative, to continue co-operation in the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons, and other regional and global platforms, *inter alia*, the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons;

15. Encourage the relevant executive structures in accordance with their mandates and in co-ordination with the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, to continue undertaking research, in consultation with the participating States, to conduct capacity-building activities, to assist participating States, upon their request, in developing policies and guidelines to strengthen efforts to prevent human trafficking;

16. Task the Secretary General to review existing policies, audit and reporting procedures and recruitment safeguards, and to ensure that no activities of the OSCE executive structures, including the issuing of contracts for goods and services, contribute to any form of trafficking in human beings, in accordance with the 2013 Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, and to report on this review and on the implementation of the OSCE Code of Conduct, Appendix 1 to Staff Regulations and Rules to the Permanent Council.

MC.DEC/6/17
8 December 2017
Attachment

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Canada (also on behalf of the United States of America):

“Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

In connection with the adoption of the decision, Canada, also on behalf of the United States, would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

The United States and Canada strongly support this decision. Human trafficking is one of the most egregious crimes of our time, which robs human beings of their freedom and their dignity. We must all unite to end the scourge of human trafficking.

We believe it is a priority to ensure that the rights of victims are protected, that they are not re-traumatized or endangered, and that their privacy and dignity is respected.

In this decision, we recognize the important contribution that media can make in preventing human trafficking.

It is therefore in this particular context that we accepted the wording concerning media. We do not view “responsibly” used in this context as reflecting any intention of participating States to direct or dictate journalistic or editorial content, and our acceptance of the word “responsibly” in this context does not create a precedent for its use in another context, and certainly not in the overall context of the media.

We reiterate our unwavering support for freedom of expression and independence of the media.

I request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision and to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”