



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

# **Ratification of UN Convention and Protocols**

As delivered by Political Counselor Diana F. Brown  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
13 October 2005

Thank you Madame Chair.

I would like to announce that on October 7th, 2005, the Senate of the United States of America gave its advice and consent to ratification of the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the related Protocol Against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea, and Air, as well as the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

Our OSCE decisions have urged ratification of the Protocol on Trafficking in Persons. It is an important multilateral component of the worldwide effort to combat modern-day slavery which seeks to prevent trafficking, protect victims, and promote anti-trafficking cooperation among nations.

The Convention and both Protocols will now be returned for President Bush's signature. They then must be counter-signed by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and deposited at the UN.

In addition, I would like to give an update of U.S. legislation on combating trafficking in persons.

On October 7th, the House International Relations Committee approved a bill that reauthorizes the Trafficking Victims Protection Act through fiscal year 2007. The measure was crafted by Rep. Christopher Smith, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Representative on Combating Trafficking in Persons, and will make further modifications to U.S. law and outline how our government and the private sector respond to the crime of trafficking.

One of the key provisions of this legislation provides for the prosecution of federal contractors and government employees if they violate human trafficking or sexual exploitation laws while working abroad. Before any peacekeeping mission is deployed, the State Department would be required to report to Congress on the measures taken by international organizations to prevent the involvement of the organizations' employees, contractor personnel, and peacekeeping forces in trafficking in persons or sexual exploitation of victims.

Thank you.