

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
AT THE 953rd MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

16 May 2013

**In response to the report by the OSCE Special Representative and
Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings**

Mr. Chairperson,

We add our voice to the words of welcome for the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ms. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro. We thank her for her thorough report on the work of her Office in this important area that is so relevant to the work of the OSCE.

Trafficking in human beings has long been a global phenomenon. In terms of its scale and the threat it poses to public safety, it is on a par with the illicit drugs trade and terrorism. To tackle this threat, which is a source of human tragedy, it is vital to sustain efforts to improve national legislation and law enforcement practices, increase civil society awareness of the problem of trafficking, and create socio-economic conditions that prevent this form of crime from taking place. At the same time, there must be a crackdown on the criminal groups that are the main organizers or intermediaries of illicit deals involving “living wares”.

There is an ever-increasing need for international sharing of professional experience in order to identify the most effective ways to combat trafficking in human beings. In particular, we welcome the OSCE’s contribution to the International Theoretical and Practical Conference on Fighting Human Trafficking held this April in St. Petersburg during the Russian Presidency of the Council of Baltic Sea States.

Regarding the activities of the OSCE in this area, we think it is important that the Organization not burden itself with the task of resolving all global problems, but rather focus on effectively complementing specialized multilateral structures, and above all the United Nations. A key instrument in this area has been the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons adopted in 2010. We welcome the OSCE’s participation in its implementation.

In recent years, the central focus of the Organization’s attention has been countering labour exploitation, which has allowed for the development of a solid set of commitments.

We are convinced that the time has now come to intensify our joint efforts in combating such forms of trafficking as sexual exploitation, including that of children, as well as trafficking in human beings for the purpose of removing human organs and tissues. The relevance of these two topics means that they require increased attention, including in terms of filling the “vacuum” that exists in this regard within the OSCE commitments.

This is also confirmed by data from the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, which shows that trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation is prevalent within the OSCE region and that trafficking in order to remove organs has become a global issue. We welcome the carrying out of a comprehensive study into combating trafficking in human beings in order to remove organs and tissues and regret that it will not be possible to discuss its conclusions during the forthcoming conference in June.

In conclusion, we should like to wish Ms. Giammarinaro and her team success in their future endeavours.

Thank you for your attention.