



PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT BY NORWAY IN RESPONSE SPECIAL
REPRESENTATIVE EVA BIAUDET

As delivered by Deputy Permanent Representative, Asbjørn Brandsrud
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
13 November 2008

Mr. Chairman,

The Norwegian delegation heartily welcomes the Special Representative, Ms Eva Biaudet, back to the Permanent Council and congratulates her on the excellent third *Annual Report*.

Norway remains concerned that although much has been accomplished, there is no clear indication of a decline in the trafficking of human beings. We share the view just expressed by the Special Representative that this extremely profitable criminal business is taking new and sophisticated forms and is flourishing. Unfortunately, only a few criminals are brought to justice and only a small number of the hundreds of thousands of persons trafficked are identified and assisted.

We welcome the active role of the Special Representative in assisting the participating States in their efforts to prevent the exploitation of men, women and children in forced labour, prostitution and the trade of organs – a crime that entails serious violations of human rights, undermines human values and threatens human development throughout the OSCE area. Norway commends the Special Representative for the excellent work her office has undertaken in collecting valuable data on the anti-

trafficking structures established in the participating States. We believe that this information may serve as a foundation for future conclusions and recommendations.

Furthermore, we have listened with keen interest to Ms. Biaudet's remarks on the need for co-ordination in the efforts to combat trafficking in human beings. We are pleased to inform that Norway has appointed a National Co-ordinator, established an Interagency co-ordinating body, and adopted a National Action Plan as well as a monitoring mechanism to this end.

Mr. Chairman,

Norway fully understands that we must bring about more effective implementation of international obligations, commitments and recommendations. We very much hope that the Special Representative will continue to co-operate with all relevant organisations in monitoring the implementation of the core conventions in this field. In this context, I would like to draw your attention to the consensus decision made by the State Parties to the *Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* recently to establish a working group with the mandate to propose mechanisms to review the implementation of the convention, including its Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children. The decision, which was based on a proposal by Norway and Argentina, is expected to bring the implementation of this important convention a vital step forward.

Let me also underline that we would appreciate the Special Representative to continue the work set out by the 2005 and 2006 *Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference on Trafficking for Labour Exploitation* and to co-operate with the International Labour Organisation on the implementation of the *Decent Work Agenda*.

Finally Mr. Chairman,

Norway supports a Ministerial Decision on *enhancing criminal justice responses to trafficking in human beings through a victim-centred approach* and would like to thank the Chairmanship for putting the draft forward.

Again, let me stress our strong support to the Special Representative. We look forward to continuing our close co-operation with both Ms. Biaudet and her dedicated and competent staff.

Thank you.