

Statement by the Delegation of CANADA

Review Conference on the Implementation of OSCE Commitments
Human Dimension
Warsaw, October 8th, 2010

Yves Beaulieu
Alternate Head of Delegation

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Thank you.

I would like to join previous speakers in warmly welcoming Ms. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro in her new capacity as OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

We applaud the OSCE's focus on the importance of combating this transnational threat and Canada is actively supporting the fight against human trafficking, both within our borders, as well as abroad.

World-class sporting events, such as the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, draw crowds of spectators, provide a welcome boom to local tourism and make it possible for numerous nations and cultures to interact with one another. However, there is often concern that these events could attract those seeking exploitive sexual relationships with vulnerable persons, including victims of human trafficking, as traffickers may view such events as business opportunities. In Canada, we have learned a number of lessons on how to fight human trafficking and have already shared information with the United Kingdom in preparation for the 2012 Olympics. We are also completing a study seeking to determine the impact, if any, of the Winter Games on human trafficking in Canada. We stand ready to share this information, as well as our overall strategy, with other OSCE participating States.

Canada continues to collaborate internationally, including through prevention and awareness-raising efforts in source countries abroad, through partnerships with the United Nations, and other relevant multilateral organizations, as well as with members of civil society.

The OSCE has developed an expertise in combating human trafficking and is making a difference on the ground by working with countries of origin, transit and destination. By focusing on specific and realistic goals and avoiding duplicative efforts with other relevant international actors, we are confident that the OSCE can continue to play an important role in addressing this abhorrent global crime.

Mr. Chairperson, allow me to offer a few recommendations to the ODIHR and to the OSCE.

As the OSCE moves forward on implementing its Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Canada would encourage ODIHR to continue to focus on assisting participating States with the implementation of their commitments. The effective implementation of the Action Plan, which is based on the United Nations' *Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* and the *Protocol to Prevent Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children* is an issue of great importance.

OSCE participating States must strive for comprehensive and integrated strategies to prevent trafficking that are informed by clear diagnostics and governed by targeted, systematic and knowledge-based action plans. In practice, this means doing everything possible to ensure that, for example, awareness-raising efforts are appropriately targeting different kinds of audience. Furthermore, these comprehensive strategies should exist not only at the national and regional levels, but also at the local level where significant levels of human trafficking take place.

In closing, allow me to thank the OSCE Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Persons and her team for their work in the development and implementation of anti-trafficking policies in OSCE participating States. You have Canada's support.

Thank you.