

**THE VIENNA FORUM TO FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING
13-15 February 2008**

Vienna, Austria

AIDE MEMOIRE

PANEL

**National and Regional Responses:
Action Plans, Coordinating Structures, National Monitoring
Mechanisms**

BACKGROUND

E.g. the Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking to be held at United Nations Headquarters in Vienna from 13 to 15 February 2008 will focus on the three overriding themes of vulnerability, impact and action. It will offer plenary sessions and a series of panels and workshops on different aspects of the three themes.

This event is part of the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT). The Global Initiative aims to mobilize state and non-state actors to eradicate human trafficking by in) reducing the vulnerability of potential victims and the demand for exploitation in all its forms; ii) ensuring adequate protection and support to those who do fall victim, and iii) supporting the efficient prosecution of the criminals involved, while respecting the fundamental human rights of all persons.

UN.GIFT is part of a wide partnership by the UN-System and other international and regional organizations (ILO, IOM, OSCE, OHCHR, UNICEF, and UNODC). These organizations, which form part of UN.GIFT Steering Committee, are responsible for the organization of the panels and workshops of The Vienna Forum.

The panel "National and Regional Responses: Action Plans, Coordinating Structures, National Monitoring Mechanisms" is organized by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

CONTEXT

Efficiency in combating human trafficking as a transnational crime depends, i.e. upon how well co-ordination between countries of origin, transit and destination is developed. Equally, coordination is needed within countries as such – irrespective of the transborder or purely internal nature of trafficking. Synergy of efforts and a clear division of labour and responsibilities between governmental structures (law enforcement, migration and social services, health and educational institutions, labour inspections, relevant ministries and other governmental agencies) help to avoid fragmentation, eliminate unnecessary duplication or even discrepancy of measures taken at the

state level. Such coordination can be achieved by establishing **systematic co-ordination structures**, within governmental bodies, specifically for this very goal (interagency commissions, councils, committees, Offices of National Coordinators, etc.). This structure or mechanism can be fitted in existing national practices and should respond to factual needs. The composition of such a body may therefore depend, i.e. upon the specific features of society (be it a country of origin, destination or transit, or a combination of all these). Whatever the breadth of participation of state institutions, best results in coordination of anti-trafficking responses can be achieved when such co-ordinating structures include representatives of civil society. The participation of international organizations, which provide assistance to the country concerned, may be an asset.

Co-ordination structures have been established in a considerable number of countries. They function in accordance with **National Action Plans** – a necessary tool for a systemic, coherent and efficient approach to the fight against trafficking in human beings. These national programs of action have clear bench-marks and ideally, cover the three areas of needed activities – prevention of trafficking in human beings, protection of and assistance to trafficked person, and prosecution of perpetrators. In a comprehensive way.. It is nevertheless good to remind ourselves of, that Implementation of the national action plans also require allocation of adequate resources, financial and human, to be efficient.

An independent national monitoring and reporting mechanism is the third component which ensures the efficiency of the fight against human trafficking at the state level. The institute of a **National Rapporteur** has proven to be effective in those pioneering countries which already have established different kinds of selfreporting mechanisms, with a view to increase evidence-based knowledge of the reality of the “trafficking” situation and to ensure data collection and analysis. Assessing the efficiency of measures taken to eradicate trafficking in human beings for all forms of exploitation has proven to give concrete added value for policy makers and resource allocation . Such an institute, increases national ownership of anti-trafficking policies, significantly raises the quality and level of anti-trafficking responses of the country and provides the authorities with assessments and recommendations for future actions.

Commendable is the fact that many countries strive to take coordinated actions at the regional level and therefore develop **regional programs** of co-operation and regional action plans which help to harmonize the national legislation, provide for joint operations and joint investigations, facilitate co-operation in the area of victim assistance and protection, ensure better cross-border collaboration and development of migration policies, which leads to the regularization of labour migration and better protection of labour migrants from any form of exploitation. Examples of such regional responses can be found in the CIS Program of Co-operation for Combating THB, the EU Plan of Action, the Nordic-Baltic Task Forces to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, and some others.

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective is to promote best practices in pursuing a **comprehensive, cross-dimensional approach** to combating trafficking in human beings, which was taken on board by the OSCE, one of the leading organizations in the fight against human trafficking, a strong advocate for coordination and co-operation at the national, regional and international levels, and for establishing relevant structures ensuring that all anti-trafficking stakeholders act coherently in eradicating THB and its root causes:

- **demonstrate the added value of coordination** at the national level for the state (governmental) structures and the role of the civil society (main national NGOs – service providers which are active in rendering assistance to trafficked persons) participating in such structures;
- **encourage to develop/revise and implement national action plans/programs** funded by the state as a tool to ensure clear division of labour and responsibility among the state structures engaged in combating THB for all forms of exploitation;
- **promote the institute of independent national monitoring and reporting mechanisms** and exchange experience provided by those countries which have established such mechanisms and achieved better results in data collection, analysis, self-assessment and elaboration of well-founded recommendations to the authorities;
- **provide examples of regional co-operation** in combating THB (in the areas of prevention, protection and prosecution) and experience accumulated in the course of the implementation of such regional endeavours;
- **Serve as a catalyst for more countries to follow the recommendations of international organizations, including the OSCE**, related to enhancing national and regional responses to the crime of human trafficking undermining human dignity and human rights.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

E.g. strengthened cooperation between all anti-trafficking stakeholders in the countries of origin, transit and destination; increased recognition of the need to enhance internal coordination and develop better division of labour among the State agencies; learning from examples of other countries' best practices in developing and implementing National Action Plans (programs); broader recognition of the necessity for national data collection and research, segregated data analysis and independent national reporting targeted to provide the authorities with precise information on the status of THB in a given country and relevant recommendations on further actions. Strengthened national ownership of

anti-trafficking measures and capacity building for all anti-trafficking agencies (State and non-State);

E.g. a concise statement of key policy messages will be elaborated and a summary of the panel discussions will be prepared by the organizers and be incorporated into the overall final report of the Vienna Forum.

STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

E.g. the panel will take place on 14 February, for 1 hour 15 Minutes within 1 session.

In order to allow for a highly participatory and dynamic session in order to add value to the anti-human trafficking efforts, ample time will be devoted to discussions.

THEMES

E.g. during the panel a number of themes/questions will be addressed, including possible composition of coordinating structures, comprehensive coverage of the 3 Ps in national action plans and the necessity to address all forms of exploitation in these strategic documents, advantages of an independent nature of the institute of National Rapporteur, ways to facilitate regional co-operation, etc.

PARTICIPANTS

E.g. approximately 150/200 participants are expected, among them - government officials, including national coordinators, national rapporteurs, and parliamentarians, representatives of the private sector, civil society, academia and international organizations.

WORKING LANGUAGE

English, French, German, Russian, Arabic, Chinese

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Vera Gracheva, Senior Adviser; **E-mail:** vera.gracheva@osce.org;

Anelise Gomes de Araujo, Adviser, anelise.gomesaraujo@osce.org

Liliana Sorrentino, Adviser, liliana.sorrentino@osce.org

Division: Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Organization: Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

