

Statement on behalf of Germany

UN.GIFT Vienna Forum 13 - 15 February 2008

Mr Chairman,

I would like to start by commending the organizers for convening this conference which will give participants a unique opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience in the field of preventing, combating trafficking in persons and assisting the victims of this crime.

The begin of the new millennium in 2000 marks a milestone in the long-standing commitment of the international community against trafficking in persons, because the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime was adopted by the General Assembly. Thus, for the first time, a comprehensive definition of the crime was accepted universally. In Europe, documents such as the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, enhance the UN Protocol in a regional context.

Germany hopes that the UN.GIFT initiative will help to strengthen the implementation of the UN Protocol and the Conference of the States Parties to that Protocol which is the decisive body for adopting measures within the UN System against this crime and human rights violation.

Now I would like to report on some recent developments in Germany.

The Federal Republic of Germany, already by its geographical location is a target country for human trafficking. Its central location with eight immediate neighbours makes Germany also a transit country for human trafficking adding additional challenges.

Since 1994 the Federal Police has been publishing data on discovered cases of trafficking in human beings in Germany. Since 2005 these data differentiate between trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation and trafficking for labour exploitation.

These data have proven to be extremely valuable in developing targeted politics, because measures could be tailored to the actual needs of victims. Furthermore, prevention activities could be focussed on hotspots and law enforcement authorities could use available means more efficiently.

In 1997 the Federal Government institutionalized the coordinated approach towards the complexities of trafficking in human beings by setting up the Federal Working Group "Trafficking in Women".

It is managed by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and includes all relevant ministries on the federal level and representatives of the technical conferences of the ministers of the *Länder* as well as the federal police office and representatives of civil society and Non-Governmental Organisations.

Its main results comprise guidelines for training for professionals in various fields on trafficking, input into all legislative processes touching upon aspects of human trafficking and the Cooperation concept for counselling services and the police concerning the protection of witnessing victims of traffic in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation in 1998, which was updated last year.

The Federal Government is now setting up an equivalent coordination mechanism for the area of trafficking in persons for the purpose of exploitation of labour and services.

Public awareness of these tragedies of trafficking in persons, especially for the purpose of sexual exploitation, reached a peak in 2006, when Germany was hosting the FIFA World-Cup.

The 2006 FIFA World Cup was a particular challenge to the federal and *Länder* police forces; they guaranteed that this international tournament could take place safely in Germany. To this effect, we did not only concentrate on measures against terrorism and hooliganism, but also gave high priority to fighting other forms of crime including forced prostitution and human trafficking.

Overall, the police stepped up controls specifically in the host cities, which might have had a deterring effect on potential traffickers of human beings. It was expected that stricter and more extensive controls would also increase the probability of detecting cases of human trafficking.

The federal and *Länder* police forces had developed a coordinated policing strategy which takes account of existing regional and local specificities.

Among other things, this strategy included setting up a federal office for the collection and analysis of information at the Federal Criminal Police Office and conducting focused search operations by the *Länder* police forces if there is reasonable evidence to suspect a crime.

Nation wide emergency hotlines for victims of trafficking run by specialized counseling services have been set up, in part with financial aid by the Federal Government. These hotlines were evaluated and the results are now incorporated into the plans for setting up a hotline against violence against women.

Furthermore the general police emergency line 110 is operated by officers who have received special training regarding trafficking in human beings, therefore being able to respond to any calls referring to forced prostitution.

The German Women's Council ran its campaign "Final Whistle – Stop Forced Prostitution" sponsored by the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth in order to use the publicity to raise the general awareness for the topic. This general awareness has led to many local and regional initiatives.

In looking back to the summer of 2006 and the time since, we can report, that the cooperation between police and specialized counseling services was successful. All actors in the field of combating trafficking in persons had been well prepared and had coordinated their measures.

The World Cup was a good opportunity to raise awareness on the issue of trafficking in human beings and the best of all: No increase in trafficking cases could be monitored. Only five cases with five victims in 2006 could be linked to the World Cup at all.

Let me express my hope that this conference will inspire us in our efforts to combat trafficking in persons and contributes to focussing the many initiatives within the UN system back to the Conference of States Parties which will have its fourth session this fall.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.