

**GENERAL STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR AHMET ERTAY,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY  
HEAD OF DELEGATION  
TO THE VIENNA FORUM TO FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
(The Austria Center Vienna, 13 - 15 February 2008)**

Mr. Chairman,

Turkey is determined to combat those trafficking in human beings in all its forms. Our extensive efforts towards this end have been compiled in report prepared in collaboration with the IOM, which is presented for your information outside the conference hall.

Human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation is very much on the agenda of international organizations, such as the OSCE and the European Council. On forced labour, we believe that the more legal migration opportunities are created, the less people might be tempted to resort to irregular ways and means of crossing several territories to reach their final destinations. Labour exploitation could thus be alleviated. Promoting legal migration and recognizing the importance of migrant workers as economic pillars will leave traffickers and smugglers fewer opportunities to conduct their criminal trade.

We would urge the adoption of national legislation by all concerned for the full implementation of the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. In this context, Member States should direct their efforts to detecting and dismantling the criminal networks involved. The rights of the victims of such activities should be secured with special emphasis on the problems of women and children.

We believe the Vienna Forum will help us improve and co-ordinate our law enforcement response to human trafficking under this Protocol by raising awareness on key issues.

The Forum should highlight best practices in developing and promoting a victim-centred, human rights-based approach in dealing with the scourge of trafficking, working together with other agencies, stakeholder organisations and NGOs.

By building knowledge and understanding about the harm human trafficking causes, the Forum will no doubt boost efforts towards preventing human trafficking and using that knowledge and understanding to direct and prioritise global law-enforcement responses.

The Forum should help identify the root causes of this trans-boundary organized crime by addressing both the “supply” and the “demand” ends of the problem in a balanced manner.

In order to boost prevention, we should work on methods to reduce demand in destination countries, on the one hand, and to alleviate the pressure for trafficking in source countries, on the other.

With regard to investigation, law-enforcement and prosecution, we should discuss possible ways and means to engage with partners and co-ordinate operational activity. In this connection, we should explore how to develop, co-ordinate and improve training, intelligence collection and analysis. Understanding and identification of supply conditions, recruitment methodologies, victim profiles and trafficking routes are of particular importance.

In order to provide protection and assistance to victims, we should exchange views on how to develop, coordinate, promote and facilitate victim care and assistance, international victim support as well as assisting with repatriation and reintegration programmes and working to prevent re-trafficking.

On a last note, I would like to underline that it is essential for the international community to be able to count upon, and enlist the cooperation and support of, each and every Member State to render this combat universally effective. In this process, special care and caution should be exerted by all, particularly by the international organizations involved, not to alienate any country, or its people, by implicating them with unsubstantiated illegalities.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.