



Rappresentanza Permanente d'Italia
OSCE

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**JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OSCE ACTION PLAN
ON COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS**

VIENNA, 5 JULY 2023

- I would like to thank Austria, Ireland and Romania for organising today's Joint Committee meeting to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the OSCE Action Plan on combating trafficking in human beings.
- With its 2005 and 2014 addenda, the OSCE Action Plan laid the foundation of OSCE action in combating trafficking in human beings. It has been enriched and complemented by numerous subsequent Ministerial Council decisions - the last one adopted in Milan under the Italian Chairpersonship in 2018 (*Strengthening efforts to prevent and combat child trafficking, including of unaccompanied minors*). Equally important has been the role of the Special Representatives and Coordinators, who have ensured through the years that the work of the OSCE remained timely and effective. Allow me to recall in this context the contribution of Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, who served as Special Representative and Coordinator for combating trafficking in human beings from 2010 to 2014.
- The work of the OSCE on combating trafficking in human beings is invaluable and widely recognised. It confirms the effectiveness and value added of this Organisation. There are many examples of such invaluable work, some of which have already been mentioned by the speakers. I would like to focus on three in particular.
- First, the OSCE rapid response to the unprecedented refugee crisis unfolding from Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. The practical recommendations for participating States issued by the Office of the Coordinator have provided extremely helpful guidance for immediate prevention measures and response. The information campaign for Ukrainian refugees "BeSafe" launched a year ago has been a further useful tool – greatly leveraging the communication and visibility of this Organisation.

- Second, OSCE policy guidance and support remain invaluable. The new Italian National Action Plan on combating trafficking in human beings adopted in October 2022 reflects the important work of the OSCE on the promotion and application of gender-sensitive approaches to trafficking prevention and victim support. This has also been recognised by the new OSCE publication on *“Modernizing National Action Plans to Strengthen States’ Anti-trafficking Efforts”*. Another OSCE paper on the “social path” to identification and assistance – presented at the 2023 Alliance Conference last April – is a further example of how the OSCE can effectively support participating States through the sharing of best practices.
- Last but not least, the simulation-based training exercises. The OSCE has developed a unique methodology and expertise in this area – in cooperation with the Italian Carabinieri at CoESPU in Vicenza - the Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units. Such exercises have proved very effective and appreciated in strengthening inter-agency collaboration and the human-rights based response of national authorities to the needs of victims. The objective is now “to bring Vicenza to the world”. The first Central Asia regional simulation-based training last week in Astana was an important milestone. Italy is honoured to have contributed to this achievement and will continue to do so.