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**STATEMENT BY  
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1384th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

28 July 2022

**On World Day against Trafficking in Persons**

Mr. Chairperson,

World Day against Trafficking in Persons was established in 2013 through United Nations General Assembly resolution 68/192 on improving the co-ordination of efforts against trafficking in persons.

Such trafficking is a global criminal phenomenon that is comparable with illicit drug trafficking and even terrorism in terms of the danger it represents. Like any other cross-border criminal activity, trafficking in human beings has been put on a systematic footing by criminal groups and is fiercely controlled by them.

The demand for “live goods” of this kind remains at a steadily high level. Children, women, migrants and refugees are particularly vulnerable. The preconditions for falling into the hands of exploiters are well known. They are, among others, poverty, social isolation, the marginalization of certain segments of the population, the legalization of the sex industry, and insufficient socio-economic support for mothers and children.

As is known, trafficking in human beings takes many manifestations, ranging from sexual exploitation to trafficking for the purpose of removing human organs, tissues and cells. The latter is acquiring especial significance in the light of the latest trends in the OSCE area. Particularly concerning is the recent adoption by the Parliament of Albania of a resolution rejecting the conclusions of a landmark report from 2010 on illicit trafficking in human organs in Kosovo and Albania that was prepared by Dick Marty, a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Does this not constitute the first step in terms of justification by the Albanian authorities of such crimes?

The same may evidently be said of the numerous statements in the media and by non-governmental organizations about the “co-operation” between the Ukrainian intelligence services and Western medical organizations affiliated to the black market for organ transplants during the Ukrainian Government’s punitive operation in Donbas. By the way, the order issued in March of this year by the Ukrainian Ministry of Health on amendments to the provisions regulating the selection of organs for transplantation was adopted rather hastily and without much transparency.

Against a backdrop of massive migration flows of women and children from Ukraine, traders in “live goods” have become markedly more active in many Member States of the European Union. Acting in the guise of Good Samaritans, they try to entice those newly arrived, including minors, into illegal activities. Poland has again come into the spotlight in this regard, as evidenced by various pieces in the British press citing the UK National Crime Agency. There are reports that over the past few months, at least ten people previously convicted of sex crimes against minors travelled from “misty Albion” to Poland to ostensibly render humanitarian assistance. They evidently intended to exploit the inadequate security measures at Polish temporary reception centres in which children from Ukraine are to be found.

Mr. Chairperson,

To effectively counter trafficking in human beings, it is important to step up efforts to enhance national legislation and law enforcement methods, and to exchange best practices. It is necessary to create social and economic conditions that are not conducive to the emergence of trafficking. Particular attention should be paid to the “toolkit” of human traffickers on the Internet, especially in view of the rapid development of technologies. Not to mention the need to eliminate the demand for various forms of human exploitation.

Much is being done at the global level to combat trafficking in human beings, with the United Nations in a steering role. In our Organization there is also a robust set of relevant commitments: it is important to focus on their implementation. We believe that the effectiveness of efforts to combat such trafficking can be enhanced with the help of collective non-politicized efforts by the international community, not least within the framework of specialist international organizations.

Thank you for your attention.