



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for
Combating Trafficking in Human Beings**

Conference Report

Prevention of Trafficking for Labour Exploitation in Supply Chains

Berlin

7-8 September 2016

Introduction

The conference “Prevention of Trafficking for Labour Exploitation in Supply Chains” was organized by the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR/CTHB) in close co-operation with the German OSCE Chairmanship in Office (CiO), at the German Federal Foreign Office in Berlin on 7-8 September, 2016. The CiO considers combating trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation, fostering economic connectivity and the promotion of labour and social standards in supply chains as important topics. This high-level event is part of the OSCE and Germany’s on-going effort to heighten awareness about the problem of labour exploitation in supply chains and to advocate for increased political will and concrete actions by governments and the private sector across the OSCE region to adopt measures to strengthen and enforce anti-trafficking, and to prevent this form of modern slavery in the first place.

As one of the first high-level events of its kind in the OSCE area, the *Berlin Conference* built upon the solid foundation of OSCE commitments and recommended actions, earlier research, and previous events on this topic¹. The conference speakers discussed trafficking for labour exploitation in supply chains, and presented and collected existing good practices and policy measures in the OSCE area, as well as concrete cases, lessons learned and outstanding gaps in safeguarding ethical sourcing, in both the private and public sectors. The *Berlin Conference* launched the OSR/CTHB project “Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings in Supply Chains through Government Procurement Measures” funded by the governments of Austria, Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland with the valuable support of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, and in partnership with the CBSS and the ILO.

This high-level event brought together over 180 participants from 34 countries, including from outside the OSCE region, while the speakers represented 19 different countries and companies. It was the first time that several Industry representatives from major corporations contributed and engaged actively in an OSR/CTHB event. In addition to the conference panels, a side event was held.

Skilfully led by the panel moderators, the speakers and participants at the conference engaged in an active discussion. A Rapporteur was assigned to each panel, assisting the Moderator in collecting and framing the recommendations. Panel rapporteurs subsequently featured as speakers in the “Way Forward” panel, elaborating upon the outcomes of each session and sharing concrete recommendations.

Welcoming Remarks & Keynote addresses

The Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, **Madina Jarbussynova**, welcomed the conference participants and introduced the eminent speakers: **Dr. h.c. Gernot Erler**, Special Representative of the Federal Government of Germany for the OSCE Chairmanship, **Yasmin Fahimi**, State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of Germany, **Dr. Bernhard Felmberg**, Director, Directorate Civil Society; Churches and the Private Sector in Development Cooperation, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ), **Wellington Chibebe**, Deputy General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation, **Bernd Hemingway**, Deputy Director General of the Council of the Baltic Sea States, **Snežana Samardžić**

¹ For reference, see the OSCE publication “Ending Exploitation”. Previous events include the 14th Alliance conference and the expert meeting in Milan in September 2015.

Marković, Director General of Democracy (DG II), Council of Europe, **Dr. Halil Yurdakul Yigitgüden**, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.

The distinguished speakers welcomed this timely initiative and agreed on the importance to focus more attention on **the responsibility of both the public and private sectors** in preventing abuse of a position of vulnerability through international co-operation and increased economic connectivity to foster growth, stability and respect for human rights.

Dr. h.c. Gernot Eler, Special Representative of the Federal Government of Germany for the OSCE Chairmanship, stated that “a multi-level and a multi-actor approach” is needed to prevent trafficking for labour exploitation, and called on governments, civil society and the business community to work together to “prove our critics wrong that international co-operation and increased economic connectivity cannot do both: fostering growth, stability and respect for the rights of human beings at the same time.”

Yasmin Fahimi, State Secretary in the German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, noted that Germany is a large purchaser spending 30 billion Euros on public procurement annually. She said that promotion of decent work in sustainable supply chains is at the top of Germany’s agenda. “We must stop the spiral towards the cheapest prices at the cost of rights of workers and children.” Fahimi added that Germany would vigorously continue its international efforts in this regard, such as during the G20 Presidency in 2017.

Dr. Felmberg, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ): stated **more than 450 million people are part of global supply chains**. He noted that while progress has been made over recent years, the challenges remain. In particular he voiced concern that roughly 85 million children worldwide are still working under exploitative and often harmful and dangerous conditions. He underscored that our own behaviour as consumers is an important lever to achieve higher environmental and social standards, noting Germany’s 2014 Partnership for Sustainable Textiles Initiative and called on all governments to make public procurement more sustainable, as powerful agents of change in the marketplace. BMZ also developed a web portal and an online app that informs consumers what the many sustainability labels really mean to explain what labels on products stand for and how trustworthy and recommendable they are.

CBSS and ITUC: called for **targeting the efforts of the anti-trafficking community** by identifying risk sectors, and through working together with local actors and enabling them to proactively act against human trafficking. They noted that it was critical for all relevant stakeholders to **have the needed capacity and resources** to identify instances of labour exploitation and human trafficking.

The CoE: presented the CoE Convention on CTHB - and called on States to take the lead in preventing THB, that they need to “sweep in front of their own doors” to avoid awarding public procurement contracts to businesses who may not have a clean record, and to engage with the private sector, to ensure maximum efficiency in order to succeed.

Finally, Dr. Halil Yurdakul Yigitgüden, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, stated that his office was committed to working with the OSR/CTHB on this important project and to assist Governments in developing measures to ensure that taxpayer’s money is not supporting illegal business or human trafficking in the process of procuring these goods or services.

There was a recognition that there is momentum in the right direction, towards greater accountability and a readiness on the part of legislators across the OSCE region to lay down obligations for both governments and businesses to keep their supply chains clean from trafficked labour.

Gilbert Hougbo, ILO Deputy Director General and **Rob Lederer**, Executive Director, Electronic Industry Citizenship Coalition, USA delivered the keynote addresses.

DDG Hougbo pointed to ILO's estimates of the number of people in a forced labour situation worldwide, and that 90% of forced labour is exacted in the private economy. He discussed the efforts led by ILO to promote decent work for all, including in the framework of the new Alliance 8.7, aiming to implement one of the SDG targets, which calls for effective measures to end forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour in all its forms, including the worst forms of child labour. Describing different country initiatives on combating trafficking in supply chains, Hougbo advised during his speech that governments should ratify the 2014 ILO Protocol on Forced Labour and incorporate the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in their national legislation through mandatory legal provisions for state institutions and private sector. Referring to the 2016 International Labour Conference, the ILO Deputy-Director indicated that the Resolution of the Conference underscored how global supply chains are an important aspect in any discussion of forced labour, and provided valuable recommendations to governments such as to require States to promote decent work and, to stimulate transparency and encourage enterprises to report on due diligence within their supply chains, to implement measures to improve working conditions for all workers and protect fundamental rights at work. **The ILO welcomed the OSCE initiative and looked forward to further cooperation under this project and Alliance 8.7.**

EICC's Executive Director, Rob Lederer, informed the audience that **forced labour has become a top priority for the global electronics industry** and highlighted the importance of establishing trust at the workplace among workers and managers, as well as the government and civil society that businesses are compliant with their human rights obligations. The EICC as the world's largest electronics coalition, a convener and solution providing platform, is using different mechanisms to address exploitation of workers in supply chains, such as the EICC Code of Conduct, risk assessment, monitoring and corrective action planning tools. In addition, the EICC is managing different innovative programs to combat forced labour – EICC Workplace of Choice – grievance mechanism, development of supplemental VAP Forced Labour Audits for factories and Development of Employment Agency Audit and Certification. The EICC End-to-End Framework for Responsible Labor Practices focuses on the entire worker journey: pre-recruitment phase, ethical recruitment and fair hiring and workplace of choice. The EICC recommendations on fighting THB in supply chains are focusing on three main pillars: partnership between the government, industry, NGOs and investors, involvement of all sectors of the industry and harmonization by building on existing best practices and focusing on outcomes and not processes.

Panel 1: the leading role of governments in combating THB for labour exploitation in supply chains

This panel was moderated by **Ruth Freedom Pojman**, Senior Adviser at the Office of the Special Representative. **Susan Coppedge**, Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and Senior Advisor to the U.S. Secretary of State, **Eric Biel**, Associate Deputy Undersecretary, U.S. Department of Labor, **Miriam Minty**, Head of Protect and Prepare, Modern Slavery Unit, UK Home Office, **Paul Broadbent**, Chief Executive, UK

Gangmasters Licensing Authority, **Per-Anders Sunesson**, Ambassador-at-Large for Combating Trafficking in Persons, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden and **Anette Brunovskis**, Researcher, FAFO Institute for Labour and Social Research, Norway discussed the current initiatives embarked on by their respective governments and the results already achieved. **Andrea Fromm**, Research Officer at Eurofound served as the Rapporteur for this panel.

The panellists agreed that the first step for governments and businesses alike is to **admit that the problem can happen in any country, industry and supply chain** – no business or purchaser, including governments, is exempt from forced labour and human trafficking. Government can and does play an important role in preventing human trafficking in supply chains, including leading by example, addressing key challenges, encouraging initiatives and collaborating with the private sector, international organizations. The high level commitment of Prime Minister May in the UK and President Obama in the US was noted.

The panellists argued that **adherence to internationally accepted labour and social standards is key**, and that it is **better to prevent and provide effective remedies, rather than to only react to the problem, after its occurrence**. The high-level government officials agreed that policy-makers have a decisive role in setting up rules so that irresponsible businesses play by the same rules that responsible business play by, thus **levelling the playing field for all and ensuring fair competition based on respect for human rights**. Challenges include the limited resources available, especially for smaller communities or small and medium size enterprises (SMEs). The discussions during the sessions confirmed the general consensus that **governments should lead by example** ensuring that goods and services purchased by the state authorities are not made by victims of human trafficking. Leveraging public procurement to prevent and combat THB would send a strong message to the private sector that the government will not do business with companies involved in committing human rights abuses.

The speakers acknowledged that businesses have to be engaged in the policy making process and consulted on new policy initiatives in the field of combating THB in supply chains since there is a need to **get the balance right** between the burden on business for compliance with regulations and ethical production and sourcing which would be beneficial to both governments and the private sector.

The speakers noted that there is no “one size fits all model”. The session presented some different models of preventing human trafficking in supply chains. One of the most widely used practices is **transparency in supply chains** (US, UK), where companies have to publicly disclose their efforts to ensure that their suppliers are not producing goods or providing services by using human trafficking. Ambassador Coppedge presented the California Transparency in Supply Chains Act, and Miriam Minty presented the UK Modern Slavery Act as promising practices in this area.

Another approach adopted by countries is **leveraging public procurement** as a way of preventing trafficking in supply chains (USA, Sweden, Norway), where governments are working with their contractors to exclude forced labour from the procurement process. In this regard, the US presented the Executive Order 13627 Strengthening Protections Against Trafficking in Persons in Federal Contracts, and Norway presented its new law on socially responsible public procurement, as well as an initiative to limit supply chains to three links in the cleaning sector.

The licencing of supplier's model has been also implemented in some countries (UK), where suppliers of certain services have to undergo a state licencing procedure and have to prove that their services are in line with existing human rights standards. The UK Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA) created to protect workers from exploitation by regulating the activities of organisations that supplied workers, presented their **labour licencing standards** and their supplier retailer protocol.

The discussions during the panel revealed new policy initiatives currently existing in some of the OSCE pS such as a proposed amendment to the UK Modern Slavery Act to incorporate public procurement provisions, development by the Welsh government of a Code of Practice on Ethical Sourcing; the expansion of the mandate of the UK GLA to now cover all of the UK labour market, with a change in name to the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority. The new powers give the GLAA the authority to investigate national minimum wage, employment agency, and modern slavery offences, across the UK labour market, in addition to Gangmaster offences, recognising the effectiveness of the approach the GLA has succeeded in driving up compliance and identifying irregular and exploitative employment practices. Another step taken to strengthen US anti-trafficking laws is the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015. Other promising practices include the new procurement strategy for 2016 in **Sweden**, establishing **Human rights as a contract performance condition**, and introducing a common code of conduct for suppliers, ensuring that all goods and services delivered under the contract have to be provided under conditions that are in line with the ILO core conventions, protection of children from economic exploitation and the UN Anti-Corruption standards; **Norway's** Agency of Public Management and eGovernment has introduced **Socially Responsible Public Procurement**² and extended their contracts by including an obligation for suppliers to have a system for improving labour standards.

The panellists underlined the need to understand and study the existing constraints, which undermine the capacity of governments to efficiently address the problem of THB in supply chains. The most common constraints encountered refer to the low numbers of sentences for offenders, lack of relevant legislation, unclear criteria on supplier's exclusion, lack of competence on assessing contractors and lack of resources. The speakers also presented some tools, such as the www.responsiblesourcingtool.org and the Sweat and Toil app: <https://www.dol.gov/dol/apps/ilab.htm>.

The speakers further voiced the following additional recommendations:

- *Continue to explore and share models that work – whether to place the emphasis on public procurement, transparency, compliance, licencing, grievance and reporting mechanisms, or other measures.*
- *All OSCE participating States should leverage **public procurement** to prevent human trafficking in supply chains, as governments spend up to 15% of GDP on public procurement contracts for goods and services, by requiring that all government contracts for goods and services go only to businesses that have a plan in place to ensure that their subcontractors and employees do not participate in activities that contribute to or that constitute human trafficking.*
- *National governments are powerful economic actors and should make clear that they will not buy products and services made with forced and trafficked labour, and follow through with implementation and monitoring.*

² <<http://www.norway-geneva.org/Humanrights/Integrating-Human-Rights-Into-Public-Procurement/#.WBBuiDJ7GIa>> accessed 26 October 2016.

- *Work to avoid fragmentation of Public Procurement across many different government bodies, and different rules across and between countries, and to promote sharing of performance information across governments internally on contractors – to prevent rewarding bad actors.*
- *Conduct good practice analysis before legislative proposals are made (e.g. on fees, penalties for subcontractors) which are currently missing.*
- *Involve the sub-national, regional, and municipal levels and ensure enough resources for them to be able to remain compliant to legislative and policy measures.*
- *Voluntary measures are a good step, but measures with “teeth” that are enforceable, are most effective.*
- *Political will is critical to secure support for these measures at the highest levels to build support for enacting, implementing and enforcing government measures.*
- *Recognizing that quality of data is crucial to better inform policies and measures, governments should strive to collect more accurate data and analyze the wealth of information gathered with a view of underpinning far-reaching policies to prevent trafficking in supply chains.*
- *German Presidency of the G20 should carry on the international work on preventing human and labour right abuses in supply chains.*
- *Building trust with business, including to share intelligence on supply chains.*
- *The tripartite model, where the voice of workers, governments and employers is heard, should be further leveraged.*
- *Link initiatives and mainstream efforts on CTHB in supply chains, with other relevant multi-stakeholder initiatives, such as the development of National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights, anti-corruption, environmental, labour and social standards, etc..*
- *Include human rights and human trafficking in the next update of UNCITRAL’s model law.*
- *Encourage the OSCE to support participating States and work with international, private sector and social partners to advance in this area, in particular to assist with providing guidance and capacity building, and welcome the development of draft model guidelines.*

Panel 2: the industry’s responsibility: action by the private sector

Panel 2 was moderated by **Ambassador Claude Wild**, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the OSCE. The Speakers included **Renate Hornung-Draus**, Regional Vice-President (Europe), International Organisation of Employers (IOE), **Giles Bolton**, Responsible Sourcing Director, TESCO PLC, **Marcela Manubens**, Global Vice President Integrated Social Sustainability, Unilever, **Greg Priest**, Head of Sustainability Policy, IKEA Group, **Greg Asbed**, Fair Food Program, and **Gerald Pachoud**, Managing Partner, Pluto Advisory; former Special Adviser to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Business and Human Rights. **Phil Bloomer**, Executive Director, Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, was the Rapporteur of Panel 2.

The panellists highlighted how human trafficking and forced labour can occur in their own supply chains, presented concrete cases and responses. They illustrated that it is bad business not to act on such cases of THB and forced labour, and how failure is not an option. There was a clear consensus among the panellists **that businesses are glad to comply with well-designed regulations** that create a level playing field for all and reduces the possibilities for

irresponsible business to capitalize on worker vulnerability. Two of the panelists represented companies who were among the five founders of the Leadership Group for Responsible Recruitment, focused on promoting ethical recruitment and combating the exploitation of migrant workers in global supply chains across industries.³ **Businesses welcome harmonization of approaches and across jurisdictions to lessen the burden** on them to adapt to different laws and policies in various countries. Although some progress has been achieved in enacting rules in this area, legal gaps still exist especially on issues such as definition of recruitment fees, debt bondage, and passports retention.

The speakers confirmed that there is a good understanding within the private sector and government regulators that exploiting and trafficking people in supply chains creates unfair competition, distorts labour markets, encourages free riding and undermines collective efforts to respect internationally recognized labour and social standards. Adherence to international standards and national regulations, not only lowers the potential for adverse human rights impacts, including forced labour and THB, but also lowers reputational risks.

In an interconnected world, where businesses often share suppliers down their supply chains, their **collective leverage can have a large impact**. Similarly, the root causes leading to vulnerability and subsequent exploitation should be correlated and taken into consideration together: poverty, vulnerability in particular of women in the workforce, large flows of migrants and people fleeing their places of origin are all factors that create conditions favourable for exploitation. In recognition of complexity of root causes, commitment for the protection of human rights should come from the highest level in the companies, whereby top managers motivate their employees in subscribing to practices of ethical sourcing. Most importantly, teaching a human rights based approach to doing business should begin already in business schools, where business culture can be effectively affected.

Discussions have also focused on the approach to be taken with regard to **small and medium enterprises**, which do not have the resources and knowledge to fight THB in their supply chains. In this respect, governments should not exclude the SMEs but provide support and assistance in helping them to identify and mitigate THB cases.

Workers voices need to be better heard as they are the primary source of information about abuses and exploitation that might happen in supply chains. Social media and investigative journalism are being used frequently to give voice to workers but there is a need for trade unions to be more involved. The Fair Food Program presented its successful model as a market based enforcement mechanism for ethically produced goods.

The panel encouraged governments and businesses to scale up to systematic change.

Additional concrete findings of the panel include:

- *Companies have to demonstrate due diligence: businesses should map their supply chains to identify high risk nodes, do deep dive research there to evaluate the leverage they have, with others, regarding suppliers' approaches to trafficking; decide where they can improve the supply chain, and if not move away from this supply chain; or when improvement is possible they must actively engage.*
- *Businesses see standards on trafficking without enforcement as little more than PR. Enforcement eradicates free riders, empowers victims and those at risk, and rewards leading companies.*

³ <https://www.ihrb.org/news-events/news-events/the-leadership-group-responsible-recruitment>

- *Companies should bring together their Corporate Social Responsibility/Sustainability/Human Rights Units with Procurement/Purchasing Departments to build a common strategy to ensuing ethical sourcing.*
- *At the same time, it was recognized the voice and participation of the workers remains most important: workers, and their organisations involvement and leadership in eradication efforts are essential, as they know where the risks are, and will act willingly as monitors and whistle-blowers if they have the confidence that there will be enforcement and progress.*
- *Similarly, trade unions, workers' organisations, and wider civil society have a vital role in empowering and protecting the vulnerable; highlighting abuse and negligence; and using media and social media to bring greater focus to the problems. Women's empowerment should also be at the core of the development agenda.*
- *For their part, governments need to be more assertive and raise the bar of minimum company behaviour.*
- *Collective action at all stages, from the concept to the implementation phase, is essential.*
- *Investors are critical to anti-trafficking: if they demand an end to trafficking, it will drive many more companies to decisive action, or lose easier access to the capital they need. Investors need benchmarks and rankings to make these assessments easy, like Know the Chain and the Corporate Human Rights Benchmark that demonstrate those companies taking action, and those not.*

Panel 3: making a difference through innovation and collaboration

John Morrison, Chief Executive, Institute for Human Rights and Business moderated Panel 3 and elaborated on the recommendations of the speakers: **Peter McAllister**, Executive Director, Ethical Trading Initiative, UK, **Laura Germino**, Anti-Slavery Program Director, Coalition of Immokalee Workers, **Mercia Silva**, Executive Coordinator, the National Pact Institute for the Eradication of Forced Labor (InPACTO), Brazil, **Anders Lisborg**, Senior Advisor, Center against Human Trafficking, National Board of Social Services, Denmark, **Mariëlle van der Linden**, Coordinating Policy Advisor, International CSR Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of the Netherlands **and Norzin Grigoleit-Dagyab**, Senior Policy Officer, Division 115 - Sustainability Standards, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. **Suzanne Hoff**, International Coordinator, La Strada International, served as the Panel's Rapporteur.

This panel brought together the viewpoints of governments and non-governmental organizations in collaborative approaches; stimulating a dynamic discussion on some existing good practices in collaborative approaches to the prevention of trafficking for labour exploitation. The pioneering model of **worker-driven social responsibility**, implemented by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers is proof that concerted collective efforts bring tangible results. InPACTO presented how it works with companies in Brazil to keep their supply chains free of slave labour through a preventative approach promoting decent work. Companies who sign on to the Pact agree to 10 principles, including to develop a plan to implement the commitments, to participate in periodic monitoring and to recognize the “dirty list” or “transparency list. “For governments and businesses alike, **managing the risk** of forced labour in supply chains remains a priority.

While every entity approaches risk management differently, the **principle of collaboration** underpins all efforts, whether those include the drafting of guidelines, the signing of

agreements, the mapping of supply chains, or the harnessing the power of new technologies. At the same, it was noted that in practice, to be effective, collaboration needs strong leadership, shared understanding, and to be built on common goals and trust among stakeholders.

The panel discussed the regulatory versus voluntary approach. The establishment of voluntary initiatives was promoted to ensure involvement of all and to obtain more from the private sector, than just the minimum standards. However, it was stressed that a balance is needed. Voluntary standards are a step forward, but binding regulations with ‘enforcement’ are most effective, to ensure that there is zero tolerance and that there are consequences for the private sector when remedial action is not taken in cases of trafficking for labour exploitation.

The importance of monitoring and collecting data was raised, and in addition to due diligence by businesses themselves, investigative journalism and the use of social media by consumers and NGOs fulfilling a monitoring function and acting as watchdogs, were mentioned as effective means to support further action, as often this motivates the business to act. Also effective campaigning and **complaint mechanisms** were mentioned as major tools to ensure action was taken more widely by the private sector. Worker driven contracts with grievance mechanisms were recommended as a good prevention tool as part of the worker driven social responsibility model.

Complementing the conclusions of the previous panels, lessons learned and recommendations from this panel include:

- *Human trafficking and forced labour are preventable, and it is better to be proactive than to wait for a scandal or tragedy to happen.*
- *Different stakeholders, including civil society organizations, all need further guidance and support and further capacity building and that awareness and advocacy is needed to share knowledge.*
- *Change should be ensured in both the corporate and the governmental policies through adopting laws, in particular governmental procurement policies, to set a good example by ensuring that goods and services are not made by trafficked persons.*
- *It is of great importance to secure support for these issues at the most senior management level in order to create a solid buy-in. It is important to also include managers from both CSR and purchasing departments, in order to build understanding for the issue of labour exploitation among them as well.*
- *The need for responsible recruitment was advocated, in order to eradicate fees charged to migrant workers, and to encourage direct recruitment and due diligence where possible.*
- *Ensuring adequate and sufficient labour inspection, to increase the identification of human trafficking cases.*
- *The need to provide victims of forced labour and human trafficking with adequate remedies through judicial, administrative and legislative means, including more access to compensation for exploited workers.*
- *To bring informal and unregulated work within the protection of labour laws and that labour rights be applied to all workers irrespective of their migration and residence status.*
- *Building evidence with cases and research is very much needed and although it is clear that forced labour and human trafficking occurs in many different sectors, in all global regions and countries, and not only related to global and long supply chains, the emphasis should be placed on the most vulnerable sectors.*

- *OSCE is well placed to facilitate the dialogue and to act as a catalyst for policy development and cooperation across the region.*

Side event: Research and technology in the field of preventing trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation in supply chains

The side event featured the participation of academics and NGO representatives, working at the intersection of research and technology and supporting the development of evidence-based policies to combat trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation in supply chains. Speakers will present path-breaking tools and discuss the findings of recent research. The Moderator **Naile Tanis**, Executive Director, KOK worked closely with the Speakers **Jesse Eaves**, Director of Policy and Government Relations, Humanity United, **Albert Kraler**, Programme Manager, International Centre for Migration Policy Development, **Claire Methven O'Brien**, Special Adviser, Human Rights and Development, the Danish Institute for Human Rights, **Dr. Miriam Saage-Maaß**, Vice Legal Director, European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights, **Lex de Bruijn**, Managing Director, FIRA, and **Marian Benbow Pfisterer**, Head Project Management/ Liaison Nuremberg, International Organization for Migration. Judge **Marc Steiner**, Swiss Federal Administrative Court, served as the Side Event Rapporteur.

The panellists discussed different models and tools for preventing trafficking for labour exploitation, including ways to ensure fair recruitment and looking at the demand side of trafficking. Since there are immense economic interests involved in using cheap labour, which may amount to labour exploitation, it is important to use all available legal accountability mechanisms at the national and international level. Although the target groups of these models may vary from employers, labour brokers, consumers, procurement and purchasing officers, the overall motivation of creating a space where exploitation does not thrive, remains unquestioned.

Recommendations include:

- *More interdisciplinary research is needed in order to make sure that we can reach the relevant people by analyzing their mindsets in terms of legal concept and economic understanding. Human rights specialists are only a part of this solution.*
- *We should talk to each other and find a common language when discussing human trafficking in supply chains, having one language for the private and one for the public sector reflecting the similarities and differences.*
- ***Policy coherence** is of key importance, whereby the efforts to prevent trafficking in human beings in supply chains are matched by on-going initiative to tackle root causes for vulnerability and exploitation. Similarly, this topic should not be detached from the discourse on good economic governance and connectivity, but rather contribute to it with a human-rights perspective.*
- *It is important to develop concrete resources to assist stakeholders with practical tools to prevent human trafficking in supply chains.*

The Way Forward

The rapporteurs of the preceding three panels and the side event featured as speakers in the “Way Forward” panel, moderated by **Ruth Freedom Pojman**. In recognition of the power of international legal instruments, the Special Representative encouraged all countries to ratify the 2014 ILO Protocol and recalled the 2011 UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human

Rights – a real world initiative that by now has strong ownership across both government and private sector. It is also now critical to work together towards the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Closing Remarks

The German CiO, **Cornelius Zimmerman**, thanked the participants for attending the Conference and underlined that the purpose of the event was to intensify the dialogue. The Conference confirmed that states are driven not by protectionism but by sustainable economic growth worldwide. While welcoming the solid presence of the private sector in the discussions, Zimmerman stressed out that sharing values on global scale and sustainable long-term way of doing business are the most effective economic policy measures. Developing and implementing labour standards are primarily the responsibility of states, nevertheless, private sector has the responsibility to adhere them and promote them. He also hoped that these issues would form a part of a draft Ministerial Council Decision in the Second Dimension on “Good Governance and Connectivity” in Hamburg.

In his closing remarks, **Georg Schnetzer** from the Austrian MFA confirmed that combating THB in supply chains will be one of the priorities of the Austrian CiO in 2017 and that his Ministry is ready to support the OSCE project during 2017. Amendments to the Austrian Public Procurement law were made earlier this year in order to strengthen the principle of the best bidder and not the cheapest one and also to increase transparency of the subcontractors. Discussions are on-going on how to integrate social criteria into the Austria Social Public Procurement and what recommendations to make to the Government on implementation of due diligence as a result of the analysis on UN Guiding Principle on Business and Human Rights. He informed the participants on the Austria MFA’s upcoming Conference on the occasion of the EU Anti-Trafficking Day, to be co-hosted with the OSCE in Vienna on 21 October, where the prevention of human trafficking for labour exploitation and the outcomes of the Berlin conference would be discussed.

In conclusion, the Special Representative, **Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova**, summarized the findings and recommendations of the conference, thanked all moderators, rapporteurs, speakers and participants, and expressed her desire to continue the cooperation with governments, businesses, civil society, trade unions, social partners and others in order to further strengthen cooperation and multi-stakeholder initiatives in this field. The SR shared her belief that the OSCE has a strong role to play on the intergovernmental side as a trusted partner and a convener of stakeholders across its 57 participating States.