

Introduction – Panel 1, by Ms. Eva Biaudet, OSCE SR-CTHB

Dear Friends,

After an extensive opening, I would just like to take this opportunity to give a very brief introduction, in a way a reflection on the Recommendations/Results from the OSCE Annual Report. As stated on several occasions, a national rapporteur or equivalent mechanism should be instrumental in aiding participating States to produce, analyse, utilize and report on quantitative and qualitative data needed to improve counter-trafficking actions. In addition, it is important to stress that the absence of a systematically organized approach to collecting and analysing information can have adverse consequences.

I know that, for many of you here today, concerns over definitions of the functions (e.g., national rapporteurs/equivalent mechanisms and the distinction from the function of co-ordination) may be an issue. However, if we take a moment to consider the appropriate fulfilment of the function of the national monitoring and reporting mechanism, then I would ask you to consider some questions presented in our annual report as preliminary indicators of compliance with international standards by the Member States. This could, for instance, serve as a better benchmark when considering how far one is fulfilling the role and function of national rapporteur/equivalent mechanism:

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I would like to stress three recommendations, which I feel we should keep in mind:

- **Independency**
Steps can and should be taken to maximize the ability of a national rapporteur or equivalent mechanism to conduct its work with intellectual independence. To the greatest possible degree, this work needs to be capable of rendering objective and independent analysis, and of publishing findings and criticism of government anti-trafficking efforts.
- **Access to data**
The mandate of a national rapporteur or equivalent mechanism should provide sufficient authority to request and access data, as well as legal authority to gather data and report on all forms of trafficking.
- **Reports**
The reports produced by national rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms should include evaluations of anti-trafficking work. Therefore reports should be used to revise, adapt and target initiatives contained in the NAP on a regular basis. As a

result, it is important that the reports do not simply catalogue activities, but that they articulate shortfalls and gaps in order to target areas in which efforts can be improved.