

PHILIPPINES

Thematic Consultation on Smuggling of Migrants, Trafficking in Persons and Contemporary Forms of Slavery, Including Appropriate Identification, Protection and Assistance to Migrants and Trafficking Victims

Vienna International Center, Plenary Room
4-5 September 2017

Panel 2. Trafficking in Person

Thank Mister Moderator for giving me the floor.

The Philippine delegation expresses its appreciation to the insightful remarks of the panelists.

The Philippines has its own modest success in combatting trafficking in persons such as increased conviction rate for trafficking cases, effective referral system, active engagement in the region, including the ratification of all ASEAN member States of the ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP) and in the Bali Process on trafficking, and being rank as Tier 1 country by the US Global Trafficking in Persons Report for being fully compliant with the standards for actions and programs on trafficking in persons.

Similar to migrants smuggling, there are already existing frameworks, both at the international and national levels from which States could base their actions in addressing the menace of trafficking in persons. We refer to the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and the Palermo Protocols. In the Philippines, these protocols had been translated into domestic legal framework, including the Philippine expanded anti-trafficking in persons law.

The Philippines is cognizant that the challenge faced by many States is the consistent implementation of these frameworks and coherence in policy and programs among agencies and among States in the entire migration journey – from countries of origin, to countries in transit and destination, and eventual return journey. The Philippine hopes that the global compact on migration will be able to address these challenges.

In closing, the Philippines offers the following recommendations for consideration and inclusion in the GCM:

- Upgrade and ensure the integrity of civil registry documents;

- Prevent deviation and new forms of trafficking by strengthening cooperation among origin, transit and destination countries to harmonize their respective laws in the deployment, passage, and arrival of migrant workers;
- In the same light, for said countries to harmonize and adopt legal procedures that would simplify and speed up the prosecution of the trafficking cases;
- Develop and adopt of common indicators among States on human trafficking, particular in trafficking victim identification;
- Strengthen links and capacity of frontline actors against trafficking, including increase capacity and cooperation among consular and labor officers assigned abroad;
- Encourage sharing among States of disaggregated data on trafficking to facilitate victims' assistance and prosecution of traffickers;and
- Encourage a holistic, victim centered approach in all phases of implementation of anti trafficking policies and programs of States.

Thank you Mister Moderator. **END**