



G R E E C E

5th Thematic Session for the UN Global Compact for Migration,

Vienna, 4th September 2017

Panel 2: Trafficking in person and contemporary forms of slavery

Thank you Madame Chair/Moderator for giving us the floor

Indeed I am honoured to take the floor immediately after the International Labour Organisation (I.L.O.), which I would like to congratulate for this brochure on “Fair recruitment initiative”.

The Greek Delegation would like to express its appreciation to all those who contributed to the preparations and the realisation of this 5th Thematic Session on issues of global relevance and importance, such as the smuggling of migrants and the trafficking in persons, here in Vienna, headquarters of the United Nations Office and of the UNODC.

I would also like to thank and congratulate the Moderators of this Panel 2 and the panelists, for their very pertinent and interesting interventions.

Greece, as a member state of the European Union, fully aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union.

Madam Chair, ladies and gentlemen,

Greece, at the crossroads of three continents and being a party to the Palermo Protocols and all major relevant international and European instruments, is deeply concerned by the scourge of Trafficking in Person. Thus, we have stepped up all possible national measures for example by establishing the Office of the National Rapporteur on human trafficking within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as a National Identification and Referral Mechanism (NRM) for victims of trafficking e.t.c.

We are also trying to promote regional cooperation in fighting against Trafficking in Human Beings.

Our success or failure in this fight relies on our ability to bring-in all the different actors engaged in Prosecution, Protection, Prevention and Partnerships.

However, effectively addressing Trafficking and other inhumane exploitation of persons is indeed an international challenge and responsibility, as it has been acknowledged by our joined efforts and commitments undertaken at the UN high

level Conference in New York, last year, which led to our very useful meeting today in Vienna.

But let us be honest;

Trafficking in Persons responds to “demand”. There is a market out there, with “demand and supply” ratio.

If we want to buy sugar, we can read on the package the encouraging phrase “fair trade”. If we buy cigarettes, we see awful pictures making us think twice.

However, if one makes use of the services of a sex slave or of a cheap, maybe illegal worker, there are no written signs to tell one, whether these people have been victims of Trafficking.

So, let us be honest and practical, let us speak about the “end-user”.

And let us try harder to educate our society to be vigilant and to abstain from “using products” of Trafficking. Let’s make it less lucrative!

At the same time, we the States, together with non state actors and international organisations, let us all try to cooperate better than criminal and trafficking networks do.

Thank you