

**Fifth informal thematic session of the Global Compact for Safe, Regular and
Orderly Migration**

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Statement delivered by Brazil

Brazil is convinced that the global compact should be people-centered, human rights-based and gender-responsive. Countering human trafficking and contemporary forms of slavery should thus be one of its components, given the nature of these heinous crimes and their direct impact on the freedom and dignity of some of the most vulnerable members of our societies. Particular attention should be given to the provision of assistance to the victims of such crimes. That is an essential pillar of the United Nations Protocol against Trafficking in Persons, as well as of the Brazilian legislation on the issue.

Brazil has approved, last year, a national law concerning the prevention and suppression of domestic and international trafficking in persons and measures aimed at the protection and assistance to victims. We have defined trafficking in persons according to the parameters of the United Nations Protocol; set forth more severe penalties to the perpetrators of the crime; and determined that victims should have legal, social, labor and health support, as well as the possibility of receiving residence permits. Brazil is currently working on its third national plan to counter trafficking in persons, an effort that requires strong coordination among several governmental organs, with the collaboration of the UNODC and of civil society.

We are pleased that the Special Representative for International Migration has included among the recommendations of the issues brief the expansion of entitlements of victims of trafficking, including the provision of residence and work permits.

Protection and assistance to the victims must be at the center of any policy against trafficking in persons that upholds human rights. Such assistance should be gender and age sensitive, as well as take into account the special needs of vulnerable groups. A consistent effort to protect and assist victims of trafficking would discourage demand and prevent re-victimization. If concepts like these are incorporated in the Global Compact, the document will certainly also have a positive impact in our common effort to counter trafficking in persons.