

Fifth Informal Thematic Session:

“Smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery, including appropriate identification, protection and assistance to migrants and trafficking victims”¹

Vienna, 4-5 September 2017

Vienna International Centre, Plenary Room

Working towards safe, orderly and regular migration.

PANEL 1: Smuggling of migrants

H.E. Mr. Juan José Gómez Camacho, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations.

H.E. Mr. Jürg Lauber, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations.

The Secretary-General of the intergovernmental conference.

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Am Kaganga John, a retired teacher, professional food security fellow and a farmer working for a CSO known as Kikandwa Environmental Association in Uganda, an activists advocating against climate change, food insecurity, gender inequality ,mistreatment of refugees, forced and smuggling of migrants and human right abuses.

Uganda being the second highest refugee hosting country in the world after Turkey, has a high percentage of national and transnational migrant smuggling due to various reasons which include seeking for employment and economic opportunity, personal and or family betterment, escape from persecution, violence or conflict.

Smuggling of migrants have become a pressing political issue locally and globally with scattered and incomplete information available whereby there is a need for systematic review and evaluation of existing policies to counteract the smuggling of migrants using comparative analysis.

Therefore to combat Migrant smuggling, research is needed to ascertain each actor and the impact caused and how it can be controlled.

We need to identify and analyze the routes and tactics used by smugglers in this century and how it can be controlled.

Study national and global current institutional arrangements which is in place and how they work together in combating smuggling migrants and controlling irregular migrants.

In conclusion, I would say that, combating the smuggling of migrants need to increase international cooperation, reinforce national coordination and ensure that the laws in the countries involved are harmonized in order to close loopholes.

Ensure that, actors within countries of origin, transit and destination work together to stop smuggling of migrants.

All global leaders unanimously require comprehensive response to seriously look into the underlying social, economic and political pressures that fuel the crimes.

Wishing all of you good deliberations.

Kaganga John From Uganda