

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 1. Smuggling of Migrants

Thank you Mister Moderator for giving me the floor.

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

My delegation notes that it has share of the problem of migrant smuggling. In our case, many of the victims that our authorities have discovered and assisted are women and children. It is a common story among the rescued victims is their resort to smugglers is due to very restrictive legal and regular migration pathways, even for puposes of family reunification and for labor mobility and other economic reasons.

The Philippine delegation wishes to point out that there are already existing frameworks, both at the international and national levels from which States could base their actions to address migrant smuggling. From our perspective, what is clearly missing in global response to migrant smuggling is the weak, or worst, the absence of cooperation among countries of origin, transit countries and countries of destination in some migration corridors. The Philippine hopes that the global compact on migration addresses these concerns.

In the spirit of contributing doable commitments, the Philippines offers the following for consideration as part of the GCM:

- Develop, adopt, and share, as appropriate, common indicators among States on migrant smuggling, particular in victim identification and modus operandi;

- Strengthen links and capacity of frontline actors against migrant smuggling among consular, labor, and immigration officials countries;
- Ensure that gender perspective in any anti migrant smuggling actions and programs; and
- Encourage sharing among States of disaggregated data on migrant smuggling to facilitate victims' assistance and prosecution of smugglers.

Thank you Mister Moderator.

END