

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 3. Identification, Protection, and Assistance to Migrants and Trafficking Victims

Thank Mister Moderator for giving me the floor.

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

We are also particularly glad that the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Judge Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, is part of the panel. This for us signals the importance that the global compact on migration places on human rights and gender perspective, which by the way, is also is a core component of the Philippine's victim-centered approach on trafficking in persons. Moreover, we note that the Philippines and Germany are lead sponsors of the UN Human Rights Council resolution that established and renews the mandate for the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons.

One of the achievements of the Philippines on its anti trafficking in person program is its comprehensive trafficking victims referral system, which is anchored on a whole of society and inter government agency approach. This referral system, along with the increased number of conviction in trafficking cases filed in courts, helped the Philippines maintain its rank as Tier 1 country in the US Global Trafficking in Persons Report, which means that the Philippines is fully compliant with the standards for actions and programs on trafficking in persons.

In the spirit of presenting not only aspirational but also doable and action oriented programs, the Philippines offers the following three non- exhaustive list of recommendations for serious consideration and inclusion in the GCM:

- First, pursue and strengthen Bilateral Labor Agreements (BLAs), regional, and multilateral arrangements and process to ensure access and availability of assistance to migrants and trafficked victims in countries of transit and destination;

- Second, strengthen links and capacity of frontline actors against trafficking, including increase capacity and cooperation among consular and labor officers assigned abroad; and
- Third, strengthen the capacity of not only of local government authorities, but also of local hospitals, transport service, and education system, including through intensified awareness raising campaign on trafficking and appropriate assistance to migrants and trafficking victims.

Mister Moderator, much more are still needed to be done. We commit to join other States in the constructive engagement towards a global compact on migration that address, among others, concerns related to appropriate identification, protection, and assistance to migrants and trafficking victims.

Thank you. **END**