

**Intervention by the Delegation of Thailand**  
**at the Fifth Informal Thematic Session**  
**towards a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**  
**on “Smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons**  
**and contemporary forms of slavery, including appropriate identification,**  
**protection and assistance to migrants and trafficking victims”**  
**on 4 September 2017 at the Vienna International Centre**

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**Panel 1: Smuggling of Migrants**

- It is prerogative of every nation to decide who to allow in and remain in its territory. Nonetheless, related decisions should likewise give due consideration to human rights and humanitarianism especially to vulnerable groups - women and children in particular
- Key to combating the smuggling of migrants besides adopting a highly integrated approach on national policies and measures, is international cooperation and coordination, especially to facilitate the exchange of intelligence, knowledge and know-how, including biometric data and identification system.
- Strengthened and streamlined national coordination – a whole of government and society approach- coupled with a more compatible set of domestic laws among the countries involved will serve the purpose of narrowing exploitable implementation gaps and existing loopholes as well as enhancing the impacts of protection to victims.
- Above all, there is the need to enact the right framework nationally, regionally and internationally to undermine the business model of smugglers and traffickers. Innovative approach is needed in this regard.
- The principle is clear that smuggling does not result in violation of rights and abuses must be made an extremely “high risk and no reward” business.
- Reinforcing border controls, international police cooperation, and effective anti-trafficking and anti-smuggling network, for example will help increase the “risk” to smugglers. Ensuring “no reward”, on the other hand, requires an effective model targeting the efficient reduction of profits, as well as the demand, for smugglers’ services.
- It is critical importance to bear in mind that curbing profitability without tackling the demand side carries the risk that smugglers will simply increase their offer on lower-cost mode which naturally involves deadlier routes.

- The demand for smuggling can be lowered, for instance, by strengthening policies and measure relating to prevention, protection, prosecution, partnership and public relations and information campaign.
- Lowering the supply of migrants to smugglers can be partially met by enhancing employment options in the countries of origin, transit and destinations through innovative measures and policy aimed at increasing opportunities for legal labour migration. This is particularly relevant in those sectors that normally thrive on labour supply abundance, such as agriculture, textile and construction.
- Disincentive regimes against illegal employment of migrant workers at the national, regional and international levels will also help in curbing both the demand and supply. Good labour practices anywhere should likewise be disseminated and rewarded. Special consideration of the needs of vulnerable groups, especially women and children are also essential.
- In the context of sustainability, addressing the problems at their root causes is needed. Development-led strategies in the countries of origin to improve the livelihoods and employment opportunities, especially for unskilled and semi-skilled workers, will make a big difference.

*Checked against delivery*