Panel 3: Appropriate identification, protection, and assistance to migrants and trafficking victims

- A victim centered and human rights based approach in identifying and assisting and protecting vulnerable migrants and trafficking victims is important. Appropriate remedies and compensation are also essential redress for the victims.
- Our efforts to combat human trafficking have traditionally focused on prosecution, which is hardly adequate. We should strengthen our responses by putting the needs of the victims at the forefront. They have to be protected throughout the law enforcement and judicial processes.
- We need to contemplate effective measures to the safe return or granting of temporary or permanent protected status to victims. This is essentially to ensure that victims are not further harmed or re-victimized by the processes we have put in place to bring the perpetrators of these crimes to justice.
- Consistent monitoring and evaluation of our work and their possible impact is very important. It will help particularly in identifying the remaining gaps in observing the safety, dignity and the rights of the victims.
- In this regard, cooperation is also essential. It will also create value if we embrace the types of partnerships and approaches that maximized collaborative networks of all relevant stakeholders. Emphasis should be given to the potentials of new partners, essentially the indispensable roles of the private sector and other non-traditional actors including the youth and parliamentarians.
- Effective identification process is important to help ensure that the victim’s rights are protected and appropriate assistance is provided to them. This is easier said than done because this issue is very complex and requires a certain level of expertise, experiences, and actors across intergovernmental and cross border cooperation. The international community and partners who are active and involved in best practices application should render their assistance and
contribution to enhance the identification capacities of the countries facing difficulty both in establishing and in implementing such a process.

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