



Ministry of Justice
Division for Migration and Asylum Policy

Thematic consultation 5: Smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery

Panel 1: Smuggling of migrants

- Sweden aligns itself with the statement by the EU on behalf of the EU and its Member States
- Smuggling of migrants is not just a matter of illegal and disordered migration; it is closely linked to criminal networks, corruption, trafficking and exploitation of migrants. Combatting this kind of criminal activity and the criminal networks involved is of high priority for Sweden.
- Sweden would like to see the Global Compact generate support to strengthen capacity measures among relevant actors to more effectively combat and prosecute these crimes against migrant women and men, girls and boys.
- The Global Compact could also facilitate bilateral and multilateral mechanisms to share information and to coordinate activities among relevant actors with an aim to combat criminal networks.
- Opening up more effective and accessible regular migration channels is another important ingredient. Labour migration could be a useful channel as long as it does not lead to social dumping, exploitation or abuse of people. This needs to be combined with information dissemination about legal pathways as well as about risks with illegal and disordered migration and smuggling of migrants.
- Sweden would also welcome for the Global Compact to include efforts to share expertise and provide capacity support to authorities in countries of origin to identify and readmit their own citizens. This should happen in a legally secure manner that ensures the right to apply for asylum and the principle of non-refoulement, within an effective and orderly process. This would be to the benefit of both returning and readmitting states.
- Finally – addressing irregular migration will require forms of cooperation that improve the implementation of agreed principles and

commitments made. The Global Compact could contribute to a more effective United Nations by promoting greater streamlining and system-wide coherence on migration and by assigning IOM with a coordinating function in the follow-up of this Compact.

Panel 2: Trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery

- Sweden aligns itself with the EU Delegation on behalf of the EU and its Member States, but we would like to take this opportunity to echo and stress the importance that both Global Compacts must build on existing norms and processes and that – in order to be operational – they must include concrete commitments, action plans and modalities for how the Compacts should be monitored.
- The Palermo Protocol provides the internationally recognized definition of human trafficking which was agreed-upon and accepted by all Member States. Similarly, the ILO-conventions and protocol on forced labour provide the international basis for eradicating forced labour. Our opinion is that both Global Compacts must build on and recall the Palermo Protocol and the ILO conventions to address these ills.
- Another important aspect – which also is addressed in these conventions and protocols – is the need to focus on the demand side. We must – if we are serious regarding eradicating human trafficking – focus on reducing the kind of demand that fosters exploitation of persons.
- The Global Compact should promote well governed and sustainable labour migration with fair conditions. Measures that promote and ensure decent work contribute to social and economic integration and equality of treatment. In this context, it is also important to address obstacles that migrant workers can face, in law and in practice, to organise and bargain collectively. Freedom of association is a fundamental right and an enabling condition for the realization of decent work. As long as there are weak labour laws, systems or regulations regarding conditions for migrant workers, exploitation will flourish.
- The same is true regarding trafficking for sexual exploitation: In order to reduce the demand for girls and women who are exploited in prostitution, policies allowing prostitution must be reviewed. Research and reports from Interpol and other agencies is clear. No one can deny the nexus between allowing prostitution and human trafficking for sexual exploitation!
- Member States need to take decisive steps forward to realize the spirit of the New York Declaration. The Global Compact could facilitate such action by promoting capacity building initiatives and a more effective United Nations on migration – globally and at the country level.

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

- Sweden aligns itself with the statement by the EU on behalf of the EU and its Member States.
- First of all I would like to express my appreciation for the excellent Issue Brief, which provides useful food for thought for our discussions.
- As highlighted therein, identification of and protection and assistance to migrants in vulnerable situations and trafficking victims is crucial.
- Let me briefly mention two important measures that have been undertaken in Sweden in this regard.
- The first measure – which has been in place since 2009 – is the Swedish national coordinator against prostitution and human trafficking. The National Coordinator leads a National Task Force and provides operative and strategic support to all relevant Swedish agencies and civil society organizations.
- Through knowledge exchange, strategic discussions and developing checklists and other manuals on how to identify migrants in vulnerable situations and trafficking victims, cooperation between agencies, and with civil society, has improved.
- The other measure is the work of the Swedish Migration Agency to identify suspected victims of trafficking and other vulnerable groups among asylum seekers and migrants. This allows the Migration Agency to ensure that law enforcement and supportive authorities are notified as appropriate.
- A couple of years ago, the Migration Agency appointed a central-, and regional coordinators against trafficking in human beings and allocated additional resources for the task. In addition, its officials receive training in work against trafficking and in identifying vulnerability among asylum seekers and migrants.
- Furthermore, the Migration Agency has developed an Action Plan for gender mainstreaming. The activities within the Plan are expected to lead to more detection of victims of trafficking and migrants at risk.
- The Global Compact on Migration could facilitate this type of action by promoting the capacity of countries of origin, transit and destination to manage migration.
- As suggested in the Sutherland report, enhancing consular capacity and cooperation could reduce the vulnerability of migrants, not least victims of trafficking. Migrant support offices along key migratory corridors could also serve to identify victims of trafficking and other vulnerable migrants and provide them with critical services.

