

**5th Thematic Session on the Global Compact for Migration:
Smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery, including
appropriate identification, protection and assistance to migrants and trafficking victims”.**

September 4-5

Intervention by the UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Panel 2: Trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery

As the destination country for almost one million temporary migrants yearly, the UAE recognizes its responsibility in fighting abuse and exploitation of migrants as well as in combatting trafficking and smuggling of persons. Today, I will outline some of the actions taken by the UAE to address trafficking and contemporary forms of slavery including national measures, bilateral and international mechanisms. Our intention is not only to demonstrate our commitment, but to provide good practices while listening closely to the measures and practices employed by others – recognizing that scope for improvement remains.

The UAE’s efforts to combat human trafficking are guided by our 5-P strategy: **prevention, prosecution, punishment, protection and promotion of international cooperation**. The main body entrusted with the implementation of this strategy is our National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking (NCCHT) – that was created in 2012 and is composed of 18 representatives from various federal and local institutions across the seven Emirates.

Prevention, centered around awareness-raising and capacity-building, is the bedrock of our efforts to combat human trafficking. We have launched multilingual media campaigns to create general awareness about human trafficking and conducted training courses for police and judicial officials on concrete measures to combat it. Recognizing the private sector’s role in the recruitment of workers, we also launched awareness campaigns for companies that recruit workers to promote their understanding of human trafficking trends, particularly sexual exploitation, and help them recognize and avoid getting involved with criminal networks.

Prosecution and punishment remain a necessary element of our domestic strategy, and is embedded in our multi-disciplinary Federal Law established to provide the legal framework for handling human trafficking cases. In addition to various domestic measures, we are committed to international judicial cooperation, including the extradition of suspected or convicted criminals to judicial authorities and mutual judicial assistance in criminal cases, including in human trafficking.

Protection and promotion of human rights are ensured at federal level both by our Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Human Resources. Close cooperation with the private sector, particularly recruiters, is key in this context as well. Measures therefore include regulation of private employment agencies and licensing conditional upon performance, as well as enhanced mechanisms for contract transparency to ensure the protection of migrant workers.

Lastly, the **promotion of international cooperation** is crucial, given that the exploitation of migrant workers most often already begins in countries of origin. We are committed to working closely with our international partners to combat the crime of trafficking in persons at its source. To this effect, we have signed bilateral agreements including labor agreements with over 30 countries to promote cooperation on human rights issues, as well as coordination on the fight against human trafficking. We are in continuous contact with the International Labour Organization (ILO), International Maritime Organization (IMO), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) both to share our good practices and learn from their experiences.

Thank you.

- END -