



Republic of Zambia

STATEMENT DURING THE FIFTH INFORMAL THEMATIC SESSION:
"SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS, TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AND
CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY, INCLUDING APPROPRIATE
IDENTIFICATION, PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE TO MIGRANTS AND
TRAFFICKING VICTIMS" VIENNA, 4-5 SEPTEMBER, 2017

Thank you, Co-Facilitators,

On behalf of the Zambian government and indeed on my own behalf I wish to thank you for giving me the floor, and commend the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for facilitating Zambia's participation in the fifth informal thematic session, addressing the topic of smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery, including appropriate identification, protection and assistance to migrants and trafficking victims.

Chair, I wish to state that my delegation had followed with keen interest yesterday's presentations during the two sessions, including today's and wish to commend all the panellists for their insightful presentations, especially by examining the actions taken and gaps in responses to the smuggling of migrants and responses to trafficking in persons as well as exploring the crime of human trafficking including for sexual exploitation, forced labour, servitude and slavery, and related exploitative practices.

Zambia being both a destination and transit country we have been committed to fighting these vices and in that regard, we have prioritised activities aimed at combating human trafficking through implementation of protection tools to address mixed and irregular migration. In addition, we have embarked on awareness raising on the protection of vulnerable migrants and improved collection and management of data.

Further we have established an Inter-Ministerial Committee and National Secretariat on Human Trafficking, chaired by the Ministry of Home Affairs, charged with the responsibility of overseeing all human trafficking related matters at District, Provincial and National level. All the efforts are aimed at ensuring the most protection that could be given to migrants in vulnerable situations.

Chair, these issues are yet to be highlight in this statement and could be matters of consideration for inputs to be submitted towards the Global Compact. With regard to the following panels we have the following comments: -

PANEL 1: Smuggling of migrants

On this panel we agree with the proposals regarding the issues of focus in particular the implementation of the definition of smuggling of migrants and the related obligations and commitments at international law; preventing smuggling of migrants and assisting and protecting smuggled migrants; national and cross-border coordination and cooperation, including between State and non-State actors; the challenges and opportunities of a framework seeking to both combat the smuggling of migrants and protect the rights of smuggled migrants; and the preventive impact of measures such as the availability of pathways for regular migration, or coordinated cross-border action against transnational smuggling networks.

PANEL 2: Trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery

Having been cognisant of the availability of International instruments which provide the core framework for addressing trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, including the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol. Several other international and regional frameworks and related guidance are relevant to building comprehensive responses to trafficking and smuggling. Zambia has integrated into District Development Coordinating Committees (DDCC) structures issues of human trafficking and mixed migration.

The Zambia Police Service, the Department of Immigration and Zambia Correctional Service for instance have human trafficking and mixed migration incorporated into their curricular.

We have also established a case management system to respond to the needs of the unaccompanied and separated children. Further Best Interest Assessment Forms and Best Interest Determination processes for vulnerable migrant children including victims of human trafficking have been developed piloted and validated by a technical working group on mixed migration.

Interviews rooms have been created with the help of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in seven districts that is Chirundu, Kasumbalesa, Mpulungu, Mwami, Nakonde, Regional Immigration Office Lusaka and Solwezi which will enable officers collect data and also provide a confidential space for conducting assessments interviews and onwards referral for vulnerable migrants including victims of human trafficking.

We therefore, agree with the content in the brief document that given the complexities of these crimes, sustained implementation of these frameworks requires the dedication of resources and a more comprehensive response to adequately prevent trafficking, reduce the reliance on smuggling and protect the rights of migrants. While we may not eliminate the vice, these efforts could go a long way especially in protecting the victims.

Regarding the issue appropriate identification, protection, and assistance to migrants and trafficking victims, we submit that there is need to enhance protection and assistance of trafficking victims and smuggled migrants, as migrants in vulnerable situations.

PANEL 3: Appropriate identification, protection and assistance to victims of human trafficking

We also agree with the presenters in panel 3 in particular on issues that they spoke to regarding identification, referral and protection of victims of human trafficking and smuggled migrants who are not supposed to be criminalised. In addition, there is need to ensure that the best interest of the is the primarily consideration and that vulnerable migrants are assisted.

In Zambia, these are best practices we can allude to. We have ensured that Trafficking in Persons and Contemporary Forms of Slavery, are dealt with through National and Cross Border Coordination and Cooperation. We have also developed appropriate identification,

protection and assistance to migrants and trafficked victims. Recently More than 350 vulnerable migrants including victims of human trafficking have been assisted with voluntary return to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Malawi and Tanzania. In addition, Zambia has held a number of cross border meetings with her neighboring countries including Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe just to deal with issues of protecting migrants and human trafficking.

Further, in an effort not to punish the victims The President of the Republic of Zambia H.E. Edger Changwa Lungu in December, 2016 pardoned 111 male migrants including some children who consented to be smuggled. These were convicted in accordance with the prevailing national Laws.

Zambia has made some advances in dealing with human trafficking despite the challenges that we face and would therefore, like to share our experience in this regard which includes funding deficiencies for capacity building, lack of shelter for male victims of human trafficking and a high turn-over of staff in some ministries.

As a result, lack of alternative shelters in most parts of the country, victims of human trafficking are placed in detention facilities for safety. Lastly, there is also limited information to facilitate family tracing. These are but common challenges that should be taken into account especially in ensuring that developing states are able to implement the international agreed norms. The Department of Immigration, Zambia Correctional Service, Zambia Police and Department of Social Welfare to generate data on migration in mixed and irregular flows and various departments with Data Management Systems.

I thank you

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