CONFERENCE REPORT
Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development

Regional Parliamentarians Conference on Combatting Human Trafficking

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Inaugural Session

Chair: Dr. Rinchen Chophel, Director-General, South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC)

Dr. Chophel recalled that the collaboration between SAIEVAC and the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) started in 2012. In October 2016, the two organizations signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), united toward the goal to move the issue of child marriage and violence against children in South Asia forward.

Dr. Chophel expressed his hopes that this conference will be a platform for discussions between South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member States, but also with the Pacific region. With more than 40 Parliamentarians representing 21 countries, as well as representatives from the UN and civil society organizations, this Conference offers an avenue to establish a closer regional partnership and inform the participants on issues surrounding trafficking.

Welcome remarks: Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont, Secretary General, AFPPD

Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont reminded the participants of the successful outcome of the South Asia Parliamentarians’ Meeting on Child Marriage held in Kathmandu, which led to the adoption of the Kathmandu Declaration by 25 Members of Parliament who committed to end early, forced and child marriage. He recalled that human trafficking is a worldwide epidemic and a complex crime that profits from the victimization and exploitation of all human beings.

He noted that over the past decades, the global community has stepped up to combat human trafficking. The Trafficking Protocol has been ratified by 170 parties since its adoption in 2000. More recently, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has highlighted trafficking in five out of its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. At the sub-regional level, ASEAN and SAARC have established counter-human trafficking laws and human rights bodies. And at the national level, countries have developed anti-trafficking national plans. In Thailand, several Ministries oversee this work.

While these progress are commendable, Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont stressed that many challenges remain, including the low conviction of human traffickers, victim’s identification and data collection. He noted that this Conference is even more opportune as the review of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons will take place in the upcoming months. He concluded by emphasizing the importance of collaboration to end human trafficking and to address its root causes, including issues related to gender equality and women’s empowerment, health, and education.
Opening Remarks

The Regional Parliamentarians Conference on Combatting Human Trafficking was opened by Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont (MP, Thailand and Secretary-General, AFPPD), H.E. Paul Robilliard (Australian Ambassador to Thailand), H.E. Amjad Hussain Sial (Secretary-General, SAARC), Hon. Mr. Isra Sunthornvut (Secretary-General, ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly), Mr. Suthi Sukosol (Inspector General, Ministry of Labour of Thailand), and chaired by Dr. Rinchen Chophel (Director-General, SAIEVAC) in Bangkok, Thailand.

1. H.E. Mr. Paul Robillard, Australian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand

H.E. Paul Robilliard, Ambassador of Australia to Thailand, saluted AFPPD’s work in the region to end violence against women and girls. He noted that Parliamentarians’ understanding and commitment is essential to tackle the issue of human trafficking, given their unique position in their communities. He recalled Australia’s strong commitment to preventing and combating human trafficking and slavery, including through the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime. Moreover, in February 2016, Australia commenced a parliamentary inquiry, looking at whether Australia should adopt national legislation to combat modern slavery comparable to the United Kingdom’s Modern Slavery Act 2015.

H.E. Paul Robilliard noted that Australia and Indonesia are Co-Chairs of the Bali Process Business Forum, working with the 45 member States to secure regional cooperation across the Asia-Pacific. The Bali Declaration, endorsed in March 2016, recognizes the need to engage with the private sector to combat human trafficking and related exploitation. Australia and Indonesia are now working to create a Bali Process Business Forum, due to be launched in Perth in August 2017.

On behalf of the Australian government, H.E. Paul Robilliard congratulated ASEAN on the entry into force of the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) on the 8th of March 2017. He recalled Australia’s support in the framework of the ASEAN Dialogue Partner and through the 2013-2018 Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons (AAPTIP) program, and through the ILO’s TRIANGLE in ASEAN program.

H.E. Paul Robilliard concluded by stating that Australia’s support to the Regional Parliamentarians’ Conference on Combatting Human Trafficking is a reflection of Australia’s long standing commitment to work in close partnership will all countries to combat the evil of human trafficking and exploitation.
2. H.E. Mr. Amjad Hussain B. Sial, Secretary General (SAARC)

H.E. Mr. Amjad Hussain B. Sial noted the opportune time of the Conference, in the wake of positive regional and global developments in addressing the issue of human trafficking. The number of countries that have criminalized most forms of trafficking increased from 33 in 2003 to 158 in 2016. Furthermore, he recalled that the post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda, under multiple goals and targets, addresses issues related to human trafficking. Similarly, the New York Declaration adopted at the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants in September 2016 prescribes concrete actions against crimes of human trafficking and migrant smuggling. At the sub-regional levels, ASEAN and the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking (COMMIT) have taken positive and progressive steps in addressing human trafficking in the region, including through adoption of the ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

In view of widespread trafficking of women and children within and between countries in the South Asian region, H.E. Mr. Amjad Hussain B. Sial noted that SAARC adopted in January 2002 a Regional Convention on Combating the Crime of Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution. A Regional Task Force monitors and reviews the implementation of various provisions of the Convention.

However, he admitted that there is room for improvement in the SAARC Regional Convention, recognizing that the Convention could address human trafficking in a more holistic manner. Globally, the issue of human trafficking is still a matter of serious concern. The 2016 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons states that 79% of all detected trafficking victims are women and children, with sexual exploitation being the most prominent reason. He noted that more avenues for regional collaboration should be explored in a comprehensive manner. The responses to tackle the problem of human trafficking are further impeded by the lack of adequate knowledge, limited resources and level of cooperation. In the South Asian region, Member States remain fully committed to strengthen the existing regional legal framework on prevention of cross-border trafficking in persons. He stressed that in achieving these goals, the role of the Parliamentarians as key policymakers is crucial.

3. H.E. Mr. Isra Sunthornvut, Secretary General, ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)

H.E. Mr. Isra Sunthornvut began his remarks by stating that as long as there will be people benefiting from the sales of other people, human trafficking will be on the International Agenda. He noted that the lifespan of parliamentarians as legislators is an obstacle to their advocacy efforts. Their constituents may feel that their elected leaders are not devoting their time for the welfare of their community, as human trafficking does not affect their everyday-life. However, he stressed that human trafficking is not merely a legal issue, but primarily a moral issue.

H.E. Mr. Isra Sunthornvut identified two types of legislation: the legislation that remains on paper and the legislation that is taken seriously and implemented. He recalled that the AIPA was formed 40 years ago, as an avenue for ASEAN Parliamentarians to voice their concerns. He stressed that even though the ASEAN Community is fragmented, everyone should rally behind the protection of their fellow community and children.

He highlighted that unlike other international organizations, AIPA is positioned to harmonize laws in ASEAN, including laws relating to human trafficking. Parliamentarians being aware that people are profiting from the sale of children for sexual exploitation, human trafficking should become a priority issue in their agenda. To conclude, he encouraged the participants to build the foundations for the future and set the example, and reiterated that as legislators, as parliamentarians, their only legacy is the legislation they leave behind.
4. **Inaugural Address:** Mr. Suthi Sukosol, Inspector General, Ministry of Labour, representing H.E. General Sirichai Distakul, Minister of Labour, Thailand

**Mr. Suthi Sukosol** noted that resources are allocated to combat trafficking through various regional programs and mechanisms. He reminded the participants that success in resolving these challenges is conditional upon further actions to raise awareness on trafficking and its devastating consequences, and upon cooperation amongst various stakeholders. Recognizing that Thailand is a source, transit and destination country, he recalled that it is Thailand’s Agenda and Ministerial Agenda to combat human trafficking. The Government of Thailand established a specialized anti-trafficking prosecution division and an anti-trafficking court division, while increasing anti-trafficking training for the police, prosecutors, judges, labour inspectors, social workers, and navy personnel. Moreover, the Ministry of Labour worked closely with neighboring countries, and concluded MoUs with the governments of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam with regard to better management of safe and decent migration.

He stressed that the Thai government also revised and introduced an Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act in 2008, the Criminal Code and the Migrant Workers Employment Act to enable more effective law enforcement. In 2016, the Project on Combating Unacceptable Forms of Work in the Thai Fishing and Seafood Industry was launched and conducted with the collaboration of the Ministry of Labour, the European Union and the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Thailand also ratified the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 of ILO, and plans to ratify in a near future the ILO Convention No.188 on Work in Fishing Convention, the Protocol to the Convention No.29 on Forced Labour and the Convention No. 98 on the right to organize and collective bargaining.

Mr. Suthi Sukosol stressed that Thailand has so far played an important role in ASEAN’s efforts to combat human trafficking. In closing, he addressed to the audience several recommendations as follows: insisting on the importance of building strong partnerships, reviewing and harmonizing laws and policies and making them gender-responsive, creating a conducive environment for civil society participation, and producing trafficking-relevant databases.

*Dr. Mika Marumoto (Executive Director, AFPPD), Dr. Rinchen Chophel (Director-General, SAIEVAC), Mr. Suthi Sukosol (Inspector General, Ministry of Labour of Thailand), Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont (MP, Thailand and Secretary-General, AFPPD), H.E. Paul Robilliard (Australian Ambassador to Thailand), H.E. Amjad Hussain Sial (Secretary-General, SAARC), and Hon. Mr. Isra Sunthornvut (Secretary-General, ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly) posed following the opening of the Regional Parliamentarians Conference on Combatting Human Trafficking in Bangkok, Thailand.*
Introduction to the Workshop

Chair: Hon. Mrs. Dina Mahalaxmi Upadhyay, MP, Nepal

Presentation: Dr. Mika Marumoto, Executive Director, AFPPD

Dr. Mika Marumoto first presented the objectives of the Conference and went through the Agenda of the Conference. She recalled that human trafficking is an important issue for AFPPD, which envisions a world where all, especially, women and girls, have equal rights and opportunities, and can enjoy a safe, healthy and dignified life. She referred to the alarming facts that trafficking victims from East and South East Asia have been detected in more than 60 countries, and that children comprised nearly a third of the victims detected in East Asia and the Pacific.

She presented briefly AFPPD’s mission and its strategic framework where human trafficking is identified as a cross-sectoral priority issue. She noted that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development explicitly mentions the role of parliamentarians in the effective implementation of their governments’ commitments. She recalled that trafficking is explicitly and implicitly stated in the SDGs 5, 8, 10 and 16. Target 8.7 expressly mandates the States to take immediate actions to address trafficking.

Dr. Mika Marumoto introduced the Blue Heart Campaign launched by the UNODC, which represents the sadness of those who are trafficked while reminding the cold-heartedness of those who buy and sell fellow human beings. She emphasized that human trafficking is an on-going, unacceptable crime. Therefore, she strongly urged Parliamentarians to come up with immediate and intermediate actions, individually and collectively, through the participation in the Conference.

Hon. Mrs. Dina Mahalaxmi Upadhyay thanked Dr. Mika Marumoto for her presentation and recalled that South-Asia, including Nepal, is suffering from the scourge of human trafficking. She invited the participants to introduce themselves.
Session 1: Regional Overview of Human Trafficking in South and South-East Asia

Hon. Lord Fusitu’a (MP, Tonga and Co-Chair, AFPPD Standing Committee on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment) opened the first session on the regional overview of human trafficking in South and South-East Asia.

Chair: Hon. Lord Fusitu’a, MP, Tonga and Co-Chair of AFPPD Standing Committee on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment

In opening the first session of the meeting, Hon. Lord Fusitu’a recalled the definition of human trafficking provided by the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children. He also gave a few global estimates highlighting the geographical spray of the phenomenon.

1. Presentation: Mr. Willem Pretorius, Deputy Team Leader, Australia Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons (AAPTIP)

Mr. Willem Pretorius (Deputy Team Leader, AAPTIP) highlighted the on-going challenges in addressing human trafficking and the need for international cooperation.
Mr. Willem Pretorius highlighted the magnitude of human trafficking, referring to the 2016 Global Slavery Index, that 45.8 million people are estimated to be in a condition of modern slavery, of which 30.4 million in Asia Pacific. He further elaborated on the existing gaps between the number of victims identified, the number of prosecutions and ultimately, the number of convictions, quoting the 2016 US Trafficking in Persons Report. Mr. Willem Pretorius also acknowledged the positive impacts of the adoption of the Trafficking Protocol in 2000. Before its adoption, there was no agreed international legal definition. Few countries had enacted laws against trafficking. There was little or no cooperation across national borders and limited experience of criminal justice agencies in investigating and prosecuting trafficking. The adoption of the Protocol paved the way for enhanced cooperation between agencies and countries, as well as increased law enforcement experiences in investigating trafficking.

Mr. Willem Pretorius also mentioned on-going challenges in addressing human trafficking, such as the complexity of the problem and the difficulty of conducting investigations. To conclude, he stressed the importance of international cooperation, the need for developing a multipronged approach as well as enhancing the capacity of law enforcement agencies.

Hon. Lord Fusitu’a underlined the gap existing between the number of human trafficking cases and the actual number of cases followed by prosecution, and confirmed the need to continue regional collaboration including between South Asia and the Pacific.

2. Presentation: The ASEAN Initiatives, Mr. Wanchai Roujanavong, Representative of Thailand to the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC)

Mr. Wanchai Roujanavong (Representative of Thailand, ACWC) spoke about the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, which entered into force in March 2017, as well as other on-going efforts in the region.

Mr. Wanchai Roujanavong started his presentation by comparing human trafficking to drug cases, noting that resolving human trafficking cases is ten times more difficult than drug cases, as it involves far more complex facets of physical and psychological needs of human beings. Therefore, authorities need to be fully aware of especially victims’ psychological and physical needs. Moreover, the victims themselves are the only evidence of the crime, and need to be ready to testify. He then recalled that trafficking in persons is a serious problem in all ASEAN Member States. Some are primarily defined as “sending countries” (Vietnam, Lao PDR and Cambodia) or “receiving countries” (Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei), while others are designated as a country
of origin and destination (Thailand, Indonesia). As an example of ASEAN cooperation, he mentioned the case of Rohingya people, who have been victims of trafficking for several years. As a result of a cooperation between Bangladesh, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia, the transportation network through which victims were trafficked was destroyed.

Mr. Wanchai Roujanavong presented the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP), which entered into force on the 8th of March following the 6th ratification. It was drafted based on the Trafficking Protocol, but its standards are going beyond the minimum standards given by the Protocol. He indicated that all ASEAN Member States should ratify ACTIP by the end of 2017. He noted that ACTIP promotes greater collaboration among ASEAN Member States, and states that each Party shall adopt stronger legislative provisions if the crime has been committed under aggravated circumstances.

Further, Mr. Wanchai Roujanavong elaborated on the efforts undertaken to ensure effective implementation of the ACTIP, including the formulation of the Bohol Work Plan. He referred to the roles of ASEAN bodies such as the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission of Human Rights (AICHR), coordinated by the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC).

Mr. Wanchai Roujanavong listed some projects that have been recently concluded, such as the drafting of Gender Sensitive Guide for Handling Women Victims of Trafficking in Persons (Brunei) and the Regional Review on Laws, Policies and Practices within ASEAN relating to the Identification, Management and Treatment of Victims of Trafficking, Especially Women and Children (led by Lao PDR). To conclude, he also introduced the future projects to be implemented, including the Regional Multi-Sectoral Guidelines and Procedures to Address the Needs of TIP Victims (Thailand), the Development of a Child Sensitive Guideline for Handling Child Victims of Trafficking in Persons, and the Strengthening the Survivor for Preventing Trafficking in Persons in ASEAN (initiated by Indonesia).

Hon. Lord Fusitu’a, referring to the example of the regional cooperation to cope with the trafficking of Rohingya people, highlighted the importance of breaking supply-chains.

3. Presentation: Gender, Trafficking and Violence Against Women, Ms. Melissa Alvarado, Regional Manager, Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW), UN Women

Ms. Melissa Alvarado (Regional Manager EVAW, UN Women) spoke about UN Women's comprehensive approach in addressing violence against women including human trafficking.
Ms. Melissa Alvarado began her presentation by recalling the definition of violence against women (VAW) as per the 1993 UN Declaration on the Elimination of VAW. She stressed that this definition includes girls, covers the mere threat of violence, and both private and public life situations. She presented data showing the staggering scale of human trafficking and the strong gender-dynamic of this form of violence. Indeed, it is estimated that 71% of the 2.5 million people who are trafficked annually are women and girls, with girls representing two out of every three children victims of trafficking.

Ms. Melissa Alvarado introduced UN Women’s comprehensive approach of VAW, including human trafficking, which can cover all forms of violence – physical, sexual, emotional and economical. She highlighted that trafficking affects more women and girls than men and boys, as many women and girls are trafficked for specific purposes, such as sexual exploitation (72% of the female trafficked victims), but also forced marriages, begging, domestic servitude, forced labour and organ removal. In the Asia Pacific Region, Ms. Melissa Alvarado stressed that even though no clear data has been collected, it is of common knowledge that this phenomenon is widely spread. She noted that trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation is the most virulent form of human trafficking in South Asia. Forced and child marriages persist in countries throughout the region, particularly in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Indonesia. According to UN estimates, more than 130 million girls in South Asia will be married before the age of 18 between 2010 and 2030. She provided an example of how sex imbalance resulting from pre-natal sex selection and son preference exacerbated trafficking of women and girls in China and India.

Ms. Melissa Alvarado reiterated that sex trafficking violates women’s rights to life, liberty and dignity and security and constituted inhuman and degrading treatment. She stressed that women and girls are disproportionately affected by poverty and gender discrimination, and are thus more vulnerable to human trafficking. Indeed, harmful social norms and inequality in distribution of power and resources place women in inferior position and lower status in society.

Ms. Melissa Alvarado evoked the consequences of sex trafficking, such as physical and psychological problems and various socio-cultural, economic and health impacts. Thereafter, she referred to various barriers preventing trafficking victims from accessing services. She provided an example of barriers that survivors of rape and violence are facing in accessing justice in Thailand and Vietnam. Often, the criminal justice system is ingrained of gender based discrimination, inequality and discriminatory social norms, values and attitudes and lack of sensitivity towards victims.

Ms. Melissa Alvarado also presented an equally alarming figure of trafficking for forced labour in Asia and the Pacific, where more than 11 million victims of forced labour were identified, accounting for well over half of the global estimated number of 21 million victims. Afterwards, she highlighted the efforts undertaken by the UN Women towards combating human trafficking with focus on addressing its root causes. She provided a successful example of anti-trafficking program in India that sought to address the problem of trafficking of women and girls by addressing factors that led to women’s vulnerability to trafficking.

She concluded her presentation with emphasis on challenging the existing norms and facing uncomfortable truths on gender equality, which would ultimately bring unexpected benefits for the whole society.
4. Presentation: The SAIEVAC Initiatives, Ms. Sulkshana Rana, Regional Program Coordinator, SAIEVAC

Ms. Sulkshana Rana (Regional Program Coordinator, SAIEVAC) highlighted different factors that contribute to human trafficking in South Asia as well as the different strategies to combat this global crime, including the need for full implementation of the SAARC Convention on Trafficking.

Ms. Sulkshana Rana first shared the background information on SAIEVAC which was established in response to fragile child protection systems and lack of systematic follow-up of child protection issues in South Asia. SAIEVAC’s core thematic areas encompass corporal punishment, child marriage, child labour, sexual abuse and exploitation, and trafficking. She highlighted that 45.8 million people, including two million children, were estimated to be trapped in modern slavery, of which 55% of trafficking victims are women and children. As human trafficking alone generates US$32 billion annually, it has become one of the fastest growing organized crimes next to drugs and weapons.

Ms. Rana touched upon the prevalence and transnational nature of the human trafficking in South Asia. The region tends to be among the most vulnerable to human trafficking, especially in Bangladesh, India and Nepal. While pointing out the absence of systematically compiled data to show the magnitude of human trafficking in the region, Ms. Rana warned that more than one third of South Asian children are unregistered at birth, which poses a challenge in tracing missing and trafficked children. Missing children are often not reported, and as a result, they are more vulnerable to trafficking. As major contributing factors of human trafficking, Ms. Rana explained a wide array of social, political and economic dynamics in society, along with family and community belief system and personal living condition. In some parts of South Asia, human trafficking is on the rise due to female feticide and child trafficking for forced and child marriage. Emerging migration movements and lack of severe border control, restrictive or non-existent migration policies, the lacunae in implementation of such policies, if any, are among the exacerbating factors, she continued.

Ms. Sulkshana Rana mentioned the existing international and regional conventions on trafficking and child rights and their ratification status by SAARC Member States. Regarding trafficking pathways, she noted that a majority of member states were source, transit and destination countries, classified in tier 2 or in tier 2 watch list. Ms. Sulkshana Rana shared different strategies to tackle human trafficking, focusing on prevention, protection, prosecution and rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration of survivors in society. She concluded her presentation by emphasizing the need for full and effective implementation of the SAARC Convention on Trafficking, and listing some examples of cooperation and priority actions at regional level.
Discussion:

Ms. Valerie Khan, National Action Coordinating Group (NACG), Pakistan, highlighted the importance of addressing internal trafficking, mostly forgotten but part of cross-border trafficking, and the importance of acknowledging that boys are also victims, through national and regional policies.

Hon. Mrs. Viplove Thakur, MP India, emphasized that trafficking is a threat to human beings and human rights. She recalled that it is paramount to understand the root causes of trafficking and the victims’ background. She noted that poverty is the main cause and as such, countries need to find ways to alleviate poverty.

Ms. Razia Ismail added that poverty is far from being the only cause of human trafficking. She stressed that climate disasters, such as flood and droughts, also lead to human trafficking, in South Asia and elsewhere.

Hon. Mrs. Salina Begum, MP Bangladesh, noted that 10,000 to 20,000 girls and women from Bangladesh are trafficked to neighboring countries, and a significant number of boys and men are trafficked internally and internationally for sexual exploitation. She asked Mr. Mr. Wanchai Roujanavong whether there has been any specific initiative for Bangladesh on behalf of ASEAN Commission.

Mr. Wanchai Roujanavong agreed that the root causes of trafficking were numerous. He stressed that demand is also a factor in sexual exploitation, cheap labour and profit of organized crime. He affirmed that a lot of human and financial resources are required to prosecute all these cases. He confirmed that ASEAN has a number of initiatives to cooperate with countries outside the region, and is willing to discuss further and negotiate with Bangladesh or SAARC to find a way to cooperate and put an end to this crime.
Session 2: Regional Overview of Inter-Governmental Legal and Policy Framework and Systems

Chair: Dr. Mika Marumoto, Executive Director, AFPPD

1. Presentation: Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, Ms. Marika McAdam, Independent Consultant

Ms. Marika McAdam, speaking on behalf of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC), stressed the important role of Parliamentarians in implementing the SDGs, including the goals referring to the issue of human trafficking. Parliamentarians, as legislators, have extraordinary privileges, which enabled them to abolish slavery two centuries ago, creating a domino effect to adopt other legislations to combat slavery and modern slavery. She noted that even though changes are significant, many challenges remain.

She gave a brief overview of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), the only international convention which addresses transnational organized crimes, signed in 2000 and in force since 2003. Its main purpose is to provide a platform for cooperation to State Parties. From a criminal justice perspective, this entails adopting new frameworks for mutual legal assistance and extradition, law enforcement cooperation, as well as promoting technical assistance and training to strengthen capacity of national authorities. She noted that one of the key aspects of the UNTOC is that it requires States Parties to criminalize offences that relate to organized crime, including participation in an organized crime group, money laundering, corruption, and obstruction of justice. Three Protocols are supplementing the UNTOC: Trafficking in Persons Protocol, Smuggling of Migrants Protocol and Trafficking in Firearms Protocol.

She explained further the implication of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, which gave for the first time a universally agreed definition of human trafficking with three components: an act performed through certain means for the purpose of exploitation. She emphasized that this Protocol is not the ceiling, but only the baseline of what States can undertake at national level.

Regarding the progress so far, Ms. Marika McAdam first noted the increasing number of ratifications of the UNTOC, the Trafficking in Persons Protocol (ratified by 21 AFPPD Member
States) and the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol. Other signs of progress are the number of instruments and laws in place at regional and national level to combat trafficking. Although it is important to strengthen international cooperation to investigate and prosecute, she recalled that prevention is better than the cure. It is crucial to close legislative gaps and empower key stakeholders to take actions at national level, to develop formal and informal international cooperation, and to harmonize criminal justice responses with structural issues that lead to human trafficking.

2. **Presentation: SDG Alliance 8.7 and High Time Movement SDG 16.2, Ms. Simrin Singh, International Labour Organization (ILO)**

Ms. Simrin Singh (ILO) spoke about Alliance 8.7 and the need for a global movement to ensure that the goal of ending child labour by 2025 will be met.

**Ms. Simrin Singh** presented Alliance 8.7, named after the SDG Target No. 8.7 that mandates States to take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms. She underlined that this target sets the deadline in 2025, five years before the 2030 Agenda. She stressed that creating such alliance is essential to reach this goal and work in innovative ways. She mentioned a number of other international instruments on forced labour, child labour, modern slavery, and human trafficking. Highlighting some important data, Ms. Singh noted that only 16% of countries have more than 50 convictions of human trafficking, and that forced labour generates US$150 billion annually.

Ms. Singh stressed that in this context, the first objective of Alliance 8.7 is to create a global movement to ensure that the goal of ending child labour by 2025 will be met. Moreover, Alliance 8.7 provides expertise through research and knowledge sharing. Driving innovation and increasing resources are the third and fourth key areas for action of Alliance 8.7. She indicated that Alliance 8.7 focuses on six thematic areas: conflict and humanitarian settings; rule of law and governance; migration; commercial sexual exploitation; rural development, social protection and education; and supply chains.

To conclude, Ms. Simrin Singh indicated that Alliance 8.7 will be institutionalized globally through the formation of an informal grouping of states called “Friends of Alliance,” and nationally through Country Cooperation Groups.
Ms. Najwa Fathimath (Director of Social Affairs, SAARC Secretariat) spoke about the SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, stressing its limitations in definition and scope as well as the need to implement existing provisions.

Ms. Najwa Fathimath introduced the SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, which is applicable to the eight SAARC Member States. It was signed in 2002 during the Eleventh SAARC Summit and entered into force in 2005. The Convention has 14 articles, out of which nine are operative articles covering offences, aggravating circumstances, judicial proceedings, mutual legal assistance, extradition or prosecution, measures to prevent and interdict trafficking in women and children, care, treatment, rehabilitation and repatriation of the victims, implementation and higher measures.

Ms. Najwa Fathimath went through relevant articles of the Convention. Regarding Article 7, she noted that it provides a basis for extradition when two countries of SAARC do not have a bilateral agreement. Within SAARC, a Regional Task Force (RTF) has been created to monitor and assess the implementation of various provisions of the Convention. It comprises officials from each government. The RTF reports to the SAARC Meeting of Interior Ministers. It meets annually to review and assess implementation of the Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution and the Convention on the Child Welfare. It developed a Standard Operative Procedure (SOP) that addresses the limitations of the Convention by detailing action points. With the support of three countries, the RTF can develop projects, such as Regional Helplines for women and children, which it did in collaboration with an NGO based in Bangladesh. Ms. Najwa Fathimath explained further the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) of the Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, which cover all the operative articles in eight thematic areas.

She stressed that the Convention is very limited, in its definition and in its scope, as it only covers women and children against trafficking for the purpose of prostitution, and focuses only on welfare. The Convention even falls below the scope of rights afforded to children by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. SAARC mechanisms acknowledged these limitations and attempted to broaden the scope of the Convention. However, experts recommended to focus on the implementation of the existing provisions as a matter of priority.
Mr. Paul Buckley presented the Regional Cooperation to Combat Trafficking in Persons from the perspective of the UN-ACT, a UNDP program operating in the Greater-Mekong Sub-Region (GMS) and beyond, launched in 2014. He noted that in the GMS, there are strong intra-sub-regional trafficking patterns. It is important to understand the dynamics of the different trafficking patterns, differentiating the domestic trafficking flows in China and Cambodia from the extensive labour migration flows, with Thailand serving as a key destination country. The flows are usually going from less developed countries to more developed countries, and from these countries to destinations beyond the sub-region. For instance, the governments of the United Kingdom and Vietnam are currently collaborating to find solutions against the exploitation of Vietnamese citizens in the United Kingdom; there are other cases of exploitation of Thai citizens in Africa and the Middle East, of Chinese citizens in Europe, amongst others.

Mr. Paul Buckley noted that the UN-ACT program has been preceded by national and regional consultations, which defined four main areas of work, namely supporting governments and increasing cooperation through the COMMIT Process, increasing evidence-base in counter-trafficking, and supporting civil society and other actors to engage in anti-trafficking efforts more effectively.

Mr. Paul Buckley mentioned that the COMMIT Process was formally established through the signature of a MoU in 2004 by the GMS countries. The UN-ACT serves as its Secretariat. Multi-year sub-regional plans of Action were developed. Currently, the Plan of Action for the period 2015-2018 is implemented.

Mr. Paul Buckley explained the different action areas of COMMIT Process. First, regarding policy cooperation, an evaluation undertaken a few years back highlighted that the COMMIT Process has made significant progress in the area of policy incorporation. As a result of the COMMIT Process, national legislation and policies related to trafficking in persons have been aligned with international standards, and concerned countries have implemented, monitored and reviewed national plans of action. Furthermore, bilateral and multilateral cooperation to combat human trafficking have been strengthened. The COMMIT Process also allows for evidence-based policy
and programming. The evaluation also highlighted the gaps in victims’ identification. Consequently, the six governments of the GMS developed guidelines on victims’ identification.

Mr. Paul Buckley noted that research concerning the re-integration of victims in society has been carried out to understand the causes of unsuccessful reintegration of victims. Based on the research, the governments developed a regional guide for practitioners working with trafficking victims for their reintegration into society. Mr. Paul Buckley stressed that understanding the trafficking dynamics is key to prevent and protect potential victims from being trafficked. As part as the monitoring process, the six governments meet twice a year to determine the priorities for the coming years and assess the progress made; senior officials meet annually; and inter-ministerial meetings take place every three years.

To conclude, Mr. Paul Buckley identified some challenges, including significant barriers to effective data collection and a need to develop cross border cooperation in terms of law enforcement. Thailand, for instance, established cross-border collaboration through MoUs with other countries, and the one especially with Myanmar offers great examples in terms of criminal justice and protection of victims.

Dr. Mika Marumoto expressed her appreciation to the experts and stressed that without having comprehensive measures of protection of human trafficking victims, the risk of the victims being re-trafficked is a phenomenon comparable to those suffering repeated domestic violence. There is a great need of protecting the victims through adequate care and counseling in a timely manner.

5. Presentation: CSO Accountability Mechanism, Ms. Myleen Inohiaban, Migrant Forum Asia

Ms. Myleen Inohiaban (Migrant Forum Asia) highlighted CSO accountability mechanisms as well as the work of MFA to advocate for stronger protection of migrant workers including victims of trafficking.

Ms. Myleen Inohiaban presented the Migrant Forum Asia (MFA), a regional network of NGOs, associations and trade unions of migrant workers, and individual advocates in Asia who are committed to protect and promote the rights and welfare of migrant workers. The network’s core programs are capacity building, advocacy and network building. Migration, as a cross-cutting issue and complex phenomenon, encompasses the vulnerable situations and circumstances faced by migrant workers and victims of trafficking. She noted that not all migration is trafficking. Indeed, as a growing number of people are migrating through regular or irregular channels, by choice, by forced or as a means of survival, it is crucial to broaden the discussion on human trafficking to look into the labour dimension.
Ms. Inohiaban stressed that many anti-trafficking measures are geared towards securitization of borders. Some governments restrict women’s movement by imposing employment bans either by age or country in which women migrants can work. This can lead to irregular migration and make migrant workers more vulnerable to trafficking and illegal recruitment.

With respect to CSO accountability mechanisms, Ms. Myleen Inohiaban noted that MFA uses different spaces and approaches to leverage the issue and advocates for stronger protection of workers including victims of trafficking. MFA engages with UN human rights mechanisms by submitting shadow reports to the committees of relevant treaty bodies, and by following special procedures such as the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants. Regarding other accountability mechanisms, she mentioned the collaboration with other organizations, platforms in the region and CSO forums such as the ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ASEAN Peoples’ Forum (ACSC/APF). MFA also works with Parliamentarians in giving reports on the policy and implementation gaps. MFA organizes regional consultations through its parliamentarian’s network, the Asia Inter-Parliamentary Caucus on Labour Migration.

To conclude, Ms. Inohiaban made some recommendations. She stressed the importance of building sustainable partnerships, including by institutionalizing CSO participation, which would be in line with SDGs 16 and 17. With respect to combating trafficking, she emphasized that governments must recognize the changing features of trafficking and its connection with other issues such as migration and labour. Understanding the linkages of trafficking to other issues such as migration is necessary to ensure that anti-trafficking policies are not interfering on people’s other rights, such as the right to mobility and right to work. She also highlighted the need for stronger enforcement of the laws including prosecution of trafficking offenders. Ms. Inohiaban encouraged the Parliamentarians to engage in regional and global processes and to continue advocating for ratification of international instruments protecting human rights.

6. Presentation: Challenges Faced by the Legal Fraternity, Mr. Muhammad Mohsen Rashid, Secretary General, SAARCLAW

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Mr. Muhammad Mohsen Rashid (Secretary General, SAARCLAW) presented on the major key challenges in the legal framework of Bangladesh, including gaps in prosecution.

Mr. Muhammad Mohsen Rashid, as the Secretary General of SAARCLAW, discussed the situation of human trafficking in some South Asian countries. In Bangladesh, he recognized the efforts of the government, who has passed clear anti trafficking laws. Enforcement of these laws
is also in progress, and the number of investigations and prosecutions has increased. In April 2012, the Parliament passed the Human Trafficking Deterrence and Suppression Act that generally prohibits and punishes all forms of human trafficking. Mr. Muhammad Mohsen Rashid further acknowledged the work of different Ministries in raising awareness on trafficking of women and children. He highlighted that a number of NGO’s in Bangladesh are working to combat human trafficking.

Mr. Muhammad Mohsen Rashid then presented major challenges and key gaps in the legal framework of Bangladesh, including a lack of gender-perspective approach. He also identified gaps in prosecution, noting the absence of a clear and unified definition of a child in terms of age, the absence of cooperation mechanisms relating to cross border trafficking and the absence of a comprehensive definition of trafficking. As for the gaps in protection, Mr. Muhammad Mohsen Rashid stressed that victims are not provided with sufficient shelters, that civil remedies in tort law are not used against employers, that the financial support for existing programs is often insufficient, and that the government should develop a witness protection program. Finally, regarding gaps in prevention, Mr. Muhammad Mohsen Rashid insisted on the importance of providing comprehensive training of personnel including police officers, developing awareness campaigns and community initiatives, and licensing and monitoring recruitment agencies.

Mr. Muhammad Mohsen Rashid further presented major challenges and key gaps in India’s legal framework on trafficking in persons. He noted the lack of a comprehensive definition of trafficking and identified other legal gaps similar to the one mentioned for Bangladesh.

In conclusion, Mr. Muhammad Mohsen Rashid stressed that trafficking is a complex and global problem that requires a global answer. He highlighted that it is important to raise awareness within the countries and the general public. Governments must have sufficient oversight and work in partnership with the private sector and NGOs. He encouraged the parliamentarians to refer to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Action Plan to combat human trafficking to develop policies. To emphasize that trafficking is a still today’s reality, he recalled the testimony of Ms. Nadia Murad Basee Taha before the UN Security Council, a Yezidi woman who was abducted into slavery by ISIS. He also mentioned the recent film name “An Indian Picture: Kahaani 2,” which tells the story of a young girl sexually exploited by a member of her family.

Dr. Mika Marumoto summed up that global responses are necessary to tackle the issue of human trafficking, although national legal gaps have to be filled with the commitment of all national stakeholders. As the 30th of July will be the world day for trafficking, she urged Parliamentarians to consider ways to raise social awareness in their respective countries.

Responses from Members of Parliament

Hon. Mr. Kama Safi, MP Afghanistan, noted the number of existing institutions aiming to combat trafficking but the lack of proper cooperation amongst them, as is the case with Afghanistan which is a source, transit and destination country for forced labour and sexual slavery. This phenomenon has been amplified by the economic vulnerability of the population and the war. He recalled that in Afghanistan terrorism is increasing, and that unfortunately, the first victims are women and children. He called for greater cooperation among the South Asian countries. Given that Afghanistan is among the most vulnerable nations regarding human trafficking, Hon. Kama Safi asked for the neighboring countries’ supoort. He further shared an incident in which he encountered a lady at airport in Dubai who said was travelling to Paris to seek asylum. Someone was helping her to obtain a Schengen visa, but Hon. Safi noticed that she didn’t carry enough money even to afford a meal. In such circumstances, Hon. Safi suspected that she would be very vulnerable to cheap labor in Europe.
Hon. Ms. Sanjida Khanam, MP, Bangladesh, recalled that significant efforts are being made to address human trafficking in Bangladesh, to prevent forced labor of Bangladeshi workers outside the country, and to prevent women and children from becoming victims of sexual exploitation. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is also working on collecting data. Regional anti-trafficking units and special courts for prosecution of crimes against women and children have been established. However, she urged SAARC countries to adopt a common law to prevent human trafficking.

Discussion:

Mr. Stefan Stoyanov, Technical Expert on Trafficking and Migration, Terre des Hommes, asked Ms. Najwa Fathimath to give recommendations to the ASEAN Community in the implementation of the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking based on the SAARC experience.

Mr. Mikhael Pradhan, Head of Advocacy, World Vision, asked the presenters to give practical examples of harmonization at national level.

Hon. Mr. S. B. Dissanayake, MP Minister of Social Empowerment and Welfare, Sri Lanka, expressed his support regarding the idea of drafting a common law for SAARC nations on monitoring the efforts on combatting human trafficking.

Hon. Mrs. Viplove Thakur, MP India, addressed a question to Mr. Muhammad Mohsen Rashid, relating to the significant length of the judicial proceedings to prosecute traffickers. She asked whether it would be adequate to establish special court that could speed up the procedure. She noted that this would also send a clear message that violators are being punished.

Ms. Najwa Fathimath answered that the ASEAN process has already learned from SAARC’s experience, as it adopted a more holistic approach and definition of trafficking. Within SAARC, the greatest challenge has been to harmonize existing laws. She also recalled that the SAARC Convention on Trafficking does not provide for a strong reporting format, that its enforcement is very limited and that internal mechanisms are not well coordinated.

Ms. Myleen Inohiaban added that it is now challenging to find a balance between existing mechanisms, and ways in which they can complement each other.

Ms. Marika Mc Adam stressed that coordination is very important, and can be developed based on the principles and philosophy embodied in the SDGs. She noted that freedom of expertise must be allowed across different stakeholders, and reminded the audience of the SDGs leitmotiv “think local, act global.”

Mr. Muhammad Mohsen Rashid agreed with Hon. Mr. S. B. Dissanayake's comments, and affirmed that despite having different languages and cultures, the behavior of people in South Asia is rather similar. He further stated that political tensions are the only obstacle towards harmonization of laws and cooperation. Regarding Hon. Mrs. Viplove Thakur question, he suggested to create a special judicial process where appeal would be addressed directly to the Supreme Court.

Dr. Mika Marumoto closed the session by thanking all the presenters for their informative and insightful presentations and the participants for the productive discussion.
Session 3: Good Practices of Strategies to Combat Human Trafficking

Chair: Ms. Najwa Fathimath, Director of Social Affairs, SAARC Secretariat

Good Practice Case Presentations

Prevention

1. **Presentation:** Promotion of Labour Migration Governance and its Linkage to Trafficking, Ms. Anna Olsen, Technical Specialist, ASEAN Triangle

Ms. Anna Olsen presented the labour approach of the prevention of human trafficking as an alternative way of addressing trafficking. She stated that the labour approach considers migration as a positive force for regional and national development, while human trafficking existed solely in the framework of criminal law and considered victims of trafficking as being deprived of their free will. She presented the benefits of addressing human trafficking as a labour market issue, which offers a new avenue to work on fair recruitment and ensure decent work to prevent trafficking, and to enforce labour way in order to ensure prosecution of criminals.

Ms. Anna Olsen presented some data showing that human trafficking is a labour market issue in ASEAN where women account for 73.4% (or around 8.5 million) of all migrant domestic workers. She stressed that migrant workers are actors of human trafficking, and, unfortunately, in many circumstances, governments have reacted by restricting freedom of movement. The existing legal provisions on age requirement and banning or restrictions imposed on women for migration for domestic work force people to start moving through irregular channels, in particularly in six countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines and Vietnam). This increases women’s vulnerability when they reach the destination. She added that it is insufficient to pay attention only to risk factors for trafficking for forced labour and impose protectionist and discriminatory policies. Equally important is to take into consideration immigration challenges, improvement of labour standards and maintenance of basic labour standards. She emphasized the need to ensure better integration of labor by taking a criminal justice approach, and broaden the focus on all migrant workers instead of only on trafficking victims or vulnerable groups.
Ms. Anna Olsen mentioned international legal standards, particularly the Forced Labour Convention (No. 29), explaining the obligations of the States which have ratified it. She elaborated on the new provisions in the Protocol and Recommendation, which encourage a much broader discussion on human trafficking. She concluded her presentation by reiterating that trafficking for forced labour is a labour market issue, which can be addressed best by taking a labour approach. She stressed the need to create regular channels for migration, thus ensuring minimum wage and social protection to migrant workers and safeguarding domestic workers’ right to protection.

2. **Presentation: Communities as a Driving Force in Eliminating Human Trafficking – Exploring the Role of Community Based Child Protection Mechanisms, Mr. Rasa Sekulovic, Regional Adviser, Child Rights and Protection, Plan International Asia Regional Office**

Mr. Rasa Sekulovic (Regional Adviser, Plan International) spoke about different partners that work in child protection, highlighting the need for positive relationships and linkages within the child protection system.

The presentation addressed the rationale behind involving communities in child protection, Community Based Child Protection Mechanisms (CBCPM) and its key aspects, common roles and functions, key contribution and recommendation for strengthening CBCPM. Mr. Sekulovic started the presentation with a brief introduction of Plan International and its coverage and work in Asia. He explained the rationale behind involving communities in terms of children’s close affinity, reliability, accessibility (compared to formalized services), level of understanding and the role communities play in providing necessary support to parents for making them responsible.

Mr. Sekulovic defined CBCPM as a formal or informal, indigenous or externally initiated and supported network working in a coordinated manner towards protection of children from all forms of violence, in all settings. He explained the key aspects, roles and responsibilities of CBCPM, which might vary depending on situations and contexts. In case of emergency, for example, CBCPM might intervene, provide necessary protection and manage cases of abuse, provided that they are equipped with necessary knowledge and skills to handle the situation. Further, CBCPM could play a vital role in awareness raising, reintegration and rehabilitation.

Mr. Sekulovic mentioned various traditional partners along with less obvious ones, working in child protection. This included both formal (social services/child welfare board) and informal (traditional and religious leaders, village committees) mechanisms. He outlined various stakeholders and partners in protecting children in all spheres of their life and put emphasis on fostering positive relationships and linkages within child protection system. To conclude, he

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provided recommendations for influencing policy and put emphasis on linking CBCPM with child protection systems and related services. He recommended to formalize CBCPM to secure budgetary allocations and other necessary support to ensure vital linkages with national child protection systems.

Protection

1. **Presentation:** Cost of Inaction on Child Protection, Mr. Stephen Blight, Regional Adviser for Children Protection, UNICEF

Mr. Stephen Blight (Regional Adviser for Children Protection, UNICEF) stated that most investments in child protection are results oriented, however there are currently insufficient investments in prevention efforts.

**Mr. Stephen Blight** presented his mandate as regional adviser for children protection at UNICEF, mentioning that to push for the integration of child protection issues in the national agenda, he also has to present economic arguments. He noted that it is impossible to reduce the number of children implied in trafficking without addressing a number of other issues that increase their vulnerability to trafficking. According to the 2016 UNODC Global report on trafficking in persons, traffickers would encounter fewer obstacles in territories where institutions do not sufficiently protect children, convict traffickers, provide proper education or support communities in keeping children safe.

Within the child protection system, three systems overlap: the social welfare system, the justice system and the social behavior change system. Mr. Stephen Blight noted that health systems are made up of a “horizontal system” of general services, providing prevention and care for prevailing health problems, and of “vertical programmes” for specific health conditions. Not surprisingly, vertical programmes are found more frequently where poverty prevails and epidemics flourish; general health services are weakly developed under such conditions. He stressed that enormous progress can be made in a very short time by allocating appropriate resources.

Mr. Stephen Blight stated that most investments in child protection are results oriented. He affirmed that there are currently insufficient investments in prevention efforts; they should be directed toward primary or universal prevention, secondary prevention aimed at securing the environment for children who may be at risk, and tertiary prevention for children who are already victims.
Mr. Stephen Blight cited some data on the prevalence of violence against children around the world, showing that Asia is the most affected region, home of more than 64% of the victims. He emphasized the fact that violence against children has long term negative outcomes such as mental disorders or perpetuating the cycle of violence. All forms of violence, including those that are socially accepted, have an impact on the mental growth of children.

Mr. Stephen Blight presented these impacts in monetary terms. Aggregated, the global costs of witnessing parental violence, physical, sexual or emotional abuse, and neglect, are estimated at US$209 billion in East Asia and the Pacific, equivalent to 2% of the regional GDP. Therefore, he urged government to invest in protecting children from violence, exploitation and abuse to reduce expenditures in crisis response services, thus impacting positively on public health, improving education outcomes, and reducing clear pathways to reproduce violence. He mentioned that the SDGs provide a comprehensive multi-sectoral violence prevention agenda, crystalized in SDG Target 16.2.

To conclude, Mr. Stephen Blight suggested five key actions leading to the creation of a protective environment for children: (i) establish a global partnership to end violence against children; (ii) strengthen and improve national legislation; (iii) monitor progress through measurement of indicators for SDG 16.2; (iv) implement a dedicated national research agenda; and (v) build a regional platform for South-South cooperation.

Repatriation

1. **Presentation**: Repatriation Information Management System (RIMS - A Technology Solution), Ms. Sankalita Shome, Dnet

Ms. Sankalita Shome (Dnet) presented on the Repatriation Information Managements System (RIMS) and how technology can play a role in addressing human trafficking.

The presentation on Repatriation Information Managements System (RIMS) established how technology can be used to address social issues, and how technology can aid to provide simpler and innovative approach to create social impact and solutions.

Ms. Sankalita Shome explained that RIMS is an outcome of the Missing Child Alert (MCA) spearheaded by Plan International, to which Dnet and SAIEVAC contributed. Dnet was mandated to use Information Communication Technologies (ICT) based solution to design intervention throughout the continuum of trafficking, which could be used both in rural and urban settings. Ms. Sankalita Shome noted that before designing the system, Dnet explored different avenues to
understand the entire continuum of trafficking and undertook studies in Bangladesh, India and Nepal. The outcome document ("Trafficking Solutions Blueprint") outlined proposed technology solutions in the anti-trafficking domain consisting of diagrams, approaches, strategies, dependencies, and roadmap. The mapping exercise recorded multiple actors and activities involved in the process of repatriation. The next step consisted in providing technology solutions through RIMS, which is a web-based system.

Ms. Shome affirmed that RIMS is an attempt to adhere to the idea that technology should be universal, and that it should be economical, innovative, and user friendly. RIMS has many useful features such as unique identification number. RIMS also provides a space for different actors to add and consult information on a particular case simultaneously from different location. RIMS can also track the progress of cases, helping identifying the bottlenecks in a timely manner. The system provides opportunities for better coordination among teams across countries, cuts down duplication and ensures quick decision-making by the actors involved.

Ms. Shome noted that RIMS is being tried and tested by few partners in the three countries (Bangladesh, India and Nepal). The early adopters who are using the system provide feedback and report glitches in the system, ensuring constant its improvement. RIMS could be easily adapted for other countries and used as a springboard to create synergy with the existing systems covering other aspects of trafficking.

Ms. Sankalita Shome concluded her presentation by stating that technology can be used to create a platform for collaboration and coordination among different actors.

**Partnerships**

1. **Presentation:** National Action and Coordinating Group against Violence against Women and Children (NACG), Ms. Razia Ismail, Executive Director, Indian Alliance of Child Rights

Ms. Razia Ismail (Executive Director, Indian Alliance of Child Rights) presented an overview of the National Action and Coordinating Groups against Violence against Women and Children (NACGs).

Ms. Razia Ismail introduced the National Action and Coordinating Groups against Violence against Women and Children (NACGs), SAIEVAC’s initiative to build linkage and dialogue with governments, civil society and children. She noted that the main purpose of NACGs was to strengthen inter-agency work involving government and children’s group to end violence against children. She presented SAIEVAC’s Institutional Mechanism, led by the Governing Board, which is comprised of 14 members with eight government representatives from all the SAARC Member
States, two child representatives, two representatives of civil society organizations, one Chairperson of the South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence against Children (SACG) and one SRS Director General. National coordinating mechanisms comprise three separate entities of government (national government, focal person), civil society (NACG) and children (National Children’s Forum).

Ms. Ismail noted that NACGs was set up to ensure that all children in South Asia enjoy their right to protection from all forms of violence in all settings, through collaboration with all national and regional stakeholders, inter-governmental agencies and children’s groups. She shed light on the objectives of the NACGs, namely strengthening networks and collaboration at national level; advocating for and supporting national level inter-agency cooperation at all levels; promoting and supporting the strengthening of civil society and children’s participation at national and regional level including national children’s forums; promoting a right based and coordinated approach to strengthen national child protection systems including community based child protection mechanisms; exchanging knowledge and actively collaborate with SAIEVAC.

Ms. Ismail explained NACGs’ key strategies, such as supporting and collaborating with SAIEVAC, networking and coordination, capacity building, evidence-based advocacy at national level, building knowledge on violence against children, strengthening national monitoring function and institutionalizing child participation. Regarding NACGs memberships, she mentioned that members were not subjected to membership fees but that agencies were encouraged and expected to invest in human and other resources to achieve the NACGs’ goal. She further explained the process through which Chair and Co-Chair are nominated, along with their key roles and responsibilities.

Ms. Razia Ismail concluded her presentation by emphasizing the role of the NACGs as backbone to SAIEVAC’s Movement to end violence against children in the SAARC region and beyond.

**Communication for Development**

1. **Presentation:** Communication for Development (C4D) Approach to Trafficking Prevention, Ms. Lindsey Higgs, IOM X Programme
covering issues relating to migration, also includes human trafficking. She mentioned that the most recent ILO report on forced labour found that 44% of people living in conditions of exploitation are migrants, and that 56% of all forced labour is found in Asia Pacific. Therefore, IOM launched IOM X as an innovative campaign to encourage safe migration and public action to stop exploitation and human trafficking in the Asia Pacific Region. It leverages the power and popularity of media and technology to disseminate key information and engage with populations, using a Communication for Development approach (C4D). This C4D takes a sector specific angle to develop effective messages, distribution channels, and opportunities for interaction.

Ms. Lindsey Higgs insisted on the importance of targeting the audience to tailor the information that needs to be conveyed. Once the target audience has been selected, it is important to test how the messages are perceived. As an example, she noted that if the primary target audience is aspirant migrants in the community of origin, it is vital to understand their reasons for leaving in order to create a successful campaign. She underlined that the ultimate goal of these communication campaign is to influence people’s behavior through adequate information.

Ms. Lindsey Higgs explained that IOM X undertook an impact assessment on a short video on trafficking and exploitation in the fishing industry (Prisana). The target audience was involved during its elaboration, and this review influenced some changes in the script. After watching the video, 13% manifested an intention to change their behavior, while only 5% actually changed their behavior. She stressed that this type of evaluation is very important to assess if resources are allocated appropriately.

Elaborating further on efficient communication methodology, Ms. Lindsey Higgs recognized that communication on human trafficking tends to relay dark and sad messages, which is not necessarily constructive. An efficient communication needs to empower people to take actions through action messages, opposed to typical messages. In that sense, IOM X is moving beyond raising awareness. While preventing human trafficking is the ultimate goal, many small actions, particularly when it comes to choices about the migration journey, can make someone more or less vulnerable to being trafficked and exploited.

To conclude, Ms. Lindsey Higgs encouraged parliamentarians to consider applying a C4D behaviour change approach that takes knowledge, attitudes and current and desired behaviours into account to strengthen awareness-raising initiatives, as indicated in the IOM X’s C4D Toolkit.

Special Intervention: Mr. Manabendra Nath Mandal, Chairman, ATSEC South Asia

Mr. Manabendra Nath Mandal (Chairman, ATSEC South Asia) highlighted the importance of prosecution of offenders as a fundamental response to human trafficking.
Mr. Manabendra Nath Mandal shared his experience as Chairman of the Action against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children (ATSEC) in India, Nepal and Bangladesh. Reflecting the progress of India in defining trafficking in persons in the Penal Code, he mentioned that most of the States’ legislation have integrated a trafficking definition. He highlighted the alarming scale of trafficking in persons and its impact on children. He recalled that human trafficking generated billion dollars of profit.

Mr. Manabendra Nath Mandal affirmed that prosecution of offenders is fundamental in response to human trafficking, which is an organized and transnational crime, and a blatant violation of human rights. He recalled that the concept of prosecution is multi-dimensional, starting with identifying offenders, to investigating the crimes from the angle of an organized crime perspective, with the help of experts like forensic scientists, medical officers, counsellors, and so on.

Mr. Manabendra Nath Mandal went through a few challenges in prosecution. First, he mentioned the victimization of victims, noting that police officers often treat them as accused person. He also referred to the lack of priority given to trafficking crimes, the uneven level of professionalism of police officers and the lack of public support. He further deplored the insufficient psychological support given to victims after their rescue, who should, on the contrary, be empowered to help other potential victims. He listed more challenges in prosecution, such as the lack of intelligence data, the fear of reprisal, the lack of data backup, and the absence of coordination between agencies leading to the duplication of efforts.

Mr. Manabendra Nath Mandal gave some indicators of successful prosecutions, relating to the number of convicted offenders, the non-criminalization of victims of trafficking, the confiscation of assets of offenders and initiatives to trace missing persons. Regarding court ambience procedures, he emphasized the importance of pressing charges in a timely manner, and the need to protect victims during the trial process against intimidation and humiliation.

To conclude, Mr. Manabendra Nath Mandal recalled that for one trafficker punished, 100 trafficking victims are saved.

Discussion:

Hon. Mr. Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim, MP Malaysia, asked a question relating to the utilization of technology and artificial intelligence to quickly identify the occurrence of trafficking and traffickers, as in the case of pedophiles and child pornography. He expressed his interest in using good practices from other countries.

Mr. Rasa Sekulovic, Regional Adviser, Child Rights and Protection, Plan International, asked for means of implementation of high tech solutions in situations and circumstances where management systems are not fully developed. He noted that, in the case of child protection, information and assistance, only Philippines developed such a system.

To the first question, Ms. Sankalita Shome answered that it is difficult to define the characteristics of a trafficker. She stressed that it is important to be aware of the various ways through which a trafficker can approach a victim, for example through a job or a marriage offer. In her opinion, knowing the reasons to lure away prospective victims is more important than knowing the typical profile of the trafficker. As for the second question, she noted that laws and approaches to technologies and cross-border crimes differ from country to country; acknowledging these differences is a first step to establish a collaboration.

Hon. Mrs. Viplove Thakur, MP India, addressed a question to Ms. Razia Ismail regarding the two children representatives in the NACG, their age and the nomination process. She noted that
it would be important to take into consideration their qualification, knowledge and level of awareness.

Ms. Razia Ismail answered that children have first to be representative and are selected either by NGO, either by the governments. In both cases, it is important to ensure that the child has a chance to interact and to be informed. Children have to be aware that they represent other children and not just themselves. She noted that some children have become better people through this representation process.

Mr. Mikhael Pradhan, Head of Advocacy, World Vision, added that sensitizing communities and parents is crucial, to tackle the “plus factor” that drives children out of the source, as opposed to the “pull factor,” which refers to the means to drag children at the destination. He mentioned that technology can be used for the repatriation mechanism.

Mr. Manabendra Mandal Chairman, ATSEC South Asia, reiterated that although prevention is better than the cure, very little has been done regarding prevention. He insisted on the importance of raising awareness at schools in India and Bangladesh.
Session 4: Disaggregated Data, Collection, Analysis and Synthesis

**Chair:** Dr. Margarita F. Guerrero, Director, Statistical Division, UN Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

1. **Presentation:** UN-ACT (COMMIT) Data Collection, Analysis and Synthesis, Mr. Paul Buckley, Regional Technical Specialist, UNDP

Mr. Paul Buckley (Regional Technical Specialist, UNDP) highlighted the need to define indicators to guide national and international actions to prevent human trafficking.

**Mr. Paul Buckley** first noted that the knowledge on human trafficking is mainly anecdotal, and human trafficking is a topic that captures people’s imagination for further use in media or films. However, to fully grasp the implications of human trafficking, to determine its prevalence, flows and root causes, it needs to be backed up by scientific research and data. Data collection will also contribute to developing responses to the problem and assessing their effectiveness.

Although human trafficking can take many forms, Mr. Paul Buckley explained that much of the focus on human trafficking was trafficking for sexual exploitation. Therefore, data, and legislation and policies, have been centered on sexual exploitation. Some of the challenges in data collection and research relate to the definitions of human trafficking, which have varied over time and by country. He added that the **UN definition of trafficking is long and ambiguous**, and that internal trafficking is often ignored. Sometimes, it is also difficult to differentiate irregular migration, labour migration or trafficking, and victims of trafficking from mere economic migrants.

Mr. Paul Buckley stressed that efforts have been done to measure trafficking and responses. According to ILO estimates, there are 21 million people in forced labour, and 45 to 46 million people in modern slavery. There are continued efforts to refine the methodology, but research is made difficult by the complexity of the topic. Even though there is a lot of data on victim assistance and identification, these data are only national data containing significant biases. For instance, national bodies will not reveal whether the person prosecuted for trafficking has played the main role in committing the crime. They will also ignore domestic trafficking, and the data on reintegration of victims, essential to prevent re-trafficking, are often overlooked. Yet, by knowing all the parameters, the international community and the governments would be able to improve interventions. Mr. Paul Buckley encouraged the governments to focus on sectoral studies and
area-based studies, to better understand trafficking patterns. He recognized that the cost of such research is a challenge to overcome.

Mr. Paul Buckley presented three studies. The first one has been conducted over three years with the collaboration of the Cambodian authorities, to identify the prevalence of exploitation amongst deportees returning to Cambodia. It collected the experiences of those who have migrated for work. This research already led to positive results, as exploitation has significantly decreased over the three years. The second study was focused on forced marriage between Cambodia and China, collecting experiences of women who have been trafficked in China and subjected to forced marriage. He noted that China and Cambodia have concluded bilateral agreements to tackle this phenomenon, which led to the adoption of simple administrative measures with significant impact. Mr. Paul Buckley briefly mentioned the third study on “After Trafficking,” which was conducted on a large scale and explored the experiences of more than 200 victims of trafficking, to understand the role on reintegration-mechanisms of victims.

To conclude, Mr. Paul Buckley highlighted the need to define indicators to guide international and national actions to prevent human trafficking. He also recommended to reinforce political will through a better allocation of budget to invest in data collection, analysis and research, in order to learn from past interventions and understand their impacts.

2. Presentation: Disaggregated Data, Collection, Analysis and Synthesis, Dr. Margarita F. Guerrero, Director, Statistical Division, UN Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

Dr. Margarita F. Guerrero (Director of Statistical Division, UNESCAP) expressed the need for more tools to disseminate statistical data results in order to improve the country’s performance in achieving the SDGs.

Dr. Margarita F. Guerrero presented the notion of data disaggregation. She stressed that this notion is key in the realization of the SDGs, as data needs to include everyone in order to leave no one behind. In that regard, averages or groups are too restrictive. She insisted on the need to define those who are left behind, to identify vulnerable populations, including hard to reach and hidden population, and discriminated, marginalized and excluded groups. Through data, these groups are made visible, and policies can be framed to address specific issues.

Dr. Margarita F. Guerrero added that once collected, data needs to be used by policy makers. Therefore, statisticians need to design tools to disseminate the results, in order to improve the country’s performance in achieving SDGs. She noted that more agencies are now interested in
producing data, not only governmental agencies. Therefore, a common strategy should be thought to avoid data redundancy and make use of all data already collected.

Dr. Margarita F. Guerrero reminded the audience that within the SDGs framework, decision makers have agreed to produce indicators to assess their progress in implementation of the goals. In order to do so, governmental statistician must be able to disaggregate data by gender, age, migratory status, which will be the basis for targeted governmental actions. She presented a number of SDGs targets that require disaggregated data.

Dr. Margarita F. Guerrero concluded by presenting a few challenges pertaining to data collection. She stressed that not all of the indicators are currently available, depending on the country.

Discussion:

Ms. Valerie Kahn, Chairperson, National Action Coordinating Group (NACG), Pakistan, asked Parliamentarians why they did not try to link their policies to these studies that have been done, and whether international organizations could enhance their collaboration with national organizations rather than submitting their proposals to increase funding for data collection.

Mr. Paul Buckley answered that the vast majority of the data comes from their own systems. He stressed that there have been attempts to establish databases with different governments, to different degrees of success, but that there are significant ethical and security issues around data collection.

Dr. Margarita F. Guerrero added that international organizations preferred working with the government systems, but admitted that data sources have to be expanded. She encouraged national organizations to participate in the collection of data, especially when government are not able to collect the data themselves.

3. Special Presentation: Access to Justice and Survivors Bill of Rights, Ms. Dorothy Rozga, Executive Director, ECPAT International

Ms. Dorothy Rozga (Executive Director, ECPAT International) introduced the Bill of Rights for child victims of sexual abuse and exploitation and encourage its use by parliamentarians to empower survivors.

Ms. Dorothy Rozga presented the ECPAT initiative to establish a Bill of Rights for child victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. This initiative has been based on the experiences of survivors
of sexual abuse and exploitation, who stressed the importance of informing children on their rights to prevent sexual abuse and exploitation. This Bill of Rights is based on a multi-country study on access to justice, which aimed to understand the perspective of child survivors from a wide range of countries. Ms. Dorothy Rozga noted that since they know little about their rights, many children cannot identify themselves as victims and do not know that they have the right to be protected, the right to access to basic services, as well as the right to be compensated by those who exploited them.

She stressed that despite the existence of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, child victims are still not aware of their rights. This gap in knowledge must be bridged, and this could be possible through a simple tool such as the Bill of Rights for child victims of sexual abuse. She noted that this Bill is derived from international treaties, and as such doesn’t introduce any new right but inform children on the issues. The notion of identification and the need to define the acts of trafficking and sexual exploitation are central to the Bill of Rights. It also gives children the means to understand how to access remedies they are entitled to, and can also be helpful for families, guardians, lawyers, law-enforcement officers, teachers, etc.

Ms. Dorothy Rozga encouraged Parliamentarians to use the Bill of Rights in their countries to help children transform from uninformed victims to empowered survivors.
Session 5: Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Adoption of the Declaration and Action Plan

Chair: H.E. Dr. Seree Nonthasoot, Representative of Thailand to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)

H.E. Dr. Seree Nonthasoot (Representative of Thailand, AICHR) chaired the session on the adoption of the Statement of Commitment with Dr. Rinchel Chophel (Director General, SAIEVAC) and Dr. Mika Marumoto (Executive Director, AFPPD).

In opening the session, H.E. Dr. Seree Nonthasoot recalled that the Conference is especially opportune with the coming into force of the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in March 2017.

1. Presentation: Big Picture and Next Steps in Influencing UN General Assembly for the Essential Evaluation of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Dr. Mika Marumoto, AFPPD

Dr. Mika Marumoto stressed that 2017 is a critical year, as the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons will be reviewed regionally and globally. The Global Plan of Action was adopted at the 64th session of the UN General Assembly in July 2010. Member States reaffirmed their commitment to end trafficking in persons. A High-Level Meeting will take place in October 2017 to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. Dr. Mika Marumoto urged Parliamentarians to take part in this process. She mentioned that a number of issues would need to be addressed, such as the interrelation of human trafficking and migration, forced and child labour, trafficking in persons in conflict, crisis and disaster and human trafficking for the purpose of organ removal.

Dr. Mika Marumoto also identified a number of challenges in the review. She mentioned the need to prepare a succinct yet practical guidance on the progress made, but also to involve all the stakeholders across the board and ensure the representation of new ideas and timely analysis in the zero draft outcome document.

H.E. Dr. Seree Nonthasoot mentioned that coordination in combatting human trafficking is a major challenge, and that many organizations are still working in silos. He also stressed the need of cooperation between different governmental offices. H.E. Dr. Seree Nonthasoot pointed out the
importance of CSOs who are at the front-line, and encouraged Parliamentarians to conduct a dialogue with them.

Adoption of the Convention

Dr. Mika Marumoto read through the Commitments of the Draft Declaration. The participants raised several points.

Amongst the points raised, a representative from ECPAT International suggested to add a new paragraph “to ensure the awareness raising of the children on their rights through dissemination of the Bill of Rights and other awareness material.” Mr. Rinchen Chophel suggested to rather incorporate this into a Plan of Action, and Hon. Lord Fusitu’a noted that awareness raising was already mentioned.

Mr. Stefan Stoyanov Technical Expert on Trafficking and Migration for Terre des Hommes, suggested to add a new paragraph, No. 24, worded as follows: “Work towards ending the immigration detention of children.” He explained that this commitment would reflect Paragraph No. 33 of the “New York Declaration,” adopted at the High-Level UN Meeting on the 19th of September 2016. Upholding this commitment to the region would be beneficial as, due to the difficulty of identifying all child victims of trafficking, many children are treated as illegal migrants.

Hon. Ms. Selina Napa, MP, asked whether this newly inserted paragraph would overlap with another paragraph on the protection of victims of human trafficking.

H. E. Dr. Seree Nonthasoot answered that the two provisions were differing substantially, as the detention of children in immigration centres does not depend on whether children are victims of trafficking. Indeed, some countries detain children in detention centres because they don’t have other facilities. He gave the example of the detention centre in the immigration bureau in the heart of Bangkok, where all children are detained regardless of their status. Sometimes, children are there only by virtue of their family, to avoid family separation. Therefore, children end up being involuntary detained in immigration centres.

Hon. Mrs. Sanjida Khanam, MP Bangladesh, proposed to add a paragraph on the recognition of the importance of a common law in order to eliminate human trafficking, which has to be approved by each Nation of SAARC. She emphasized that this kind of law is necessary in order to bring offenders to justice. Dr. Mika Marumoto noted that the scope of the Declaration was global. Therefore, she suggested to undertake actions in that sense within SAARC. Ms. Razial Ismail concurred, noting that the Declaration should be a Pan-Asian document.

Regarding the last Paragraph on the periodic review process, H. E. Dr. Seree Nonthasoot highlighted that this commitment was particularly innovative, as Parliamentarians who have agreed to adopt the Statement of Commitment have committed personally to report on the implementation of their commitments.

The Declaration was adopted by unanimous consent.
Participating Members of Parliament and representatives of intergovernmental and civil society organizations have adopted the Statement of Commitment to "end human trafficking in all its forms."
Closing Remarks

Dr. Rinchen Chophel (Director General, SAIEVAC) and Dr. Mika Marumoto (Executive Director, AFPPD) delivered the closing remarks at the Regional Parliamentarians Conference on Combatting Human Trafficking.

Dr. Mika Marumoto opened the Closing Session by mentioning the loss of Senator Leticia Ramos-Shahani, who was the founding chairperson of the Philippine Legislators’ Committee on Population and Development. She was a pioneering advocate of population and development and reproductive health in the country, the first co-author of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and one of the champions of the ICPD and the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Dr. Mika Marumoto asked the participants to observe a minute of silence in honor of Senator Shahani.

Dr. Mika Marumoto expressed her appreciation for the fruitful discussions on various aspects of the crime of trafficking in persons and the sub-regional and regional mechanisms in place. Once again, she urged the governments who have not yet ratified the TIP Protocol, the ASEAN Convention and other regional and sub-regional mechanisms, to do so in a prompt manner. She recalled that the Parliamentarians have reaffirmed their commitment to review, amend, enact and enforce legislation addressing trafficking in persons. She noted that this Conference has highlighted the need to establish partnerships, with governments, within governments, but also with the civil society and the private sector.

Dr. Mika Marumoto encouraged the Parliamentarians to inform their peers and other policy makers about the outcome of the Conference.

Dr. Rinchen Chophel thanked all Parliamentarians, resource persons and other participants for their participation. He also introduced SAIEVAC’s Statement of Commitment.
### Annex

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Regional Parliamentarians’ Conference on Combatting Human Trafficking  
Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD)  
&  
South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC)  

21-22 March 2017 | Bangkok, Thailand

### Day One

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<tr>
<td>08:00 – 08:40</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:00 – 10:15</td>
<td><strong>Inaugural Session</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Chair:</strong> Dr. Rinchen Chophel, Director-General, SAIEVAC</td>
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<td><strong>Welcome remarks:</strong> Hon. Dr. Jett Sirathranont, Secretary General, AFPPD</td>
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<td><strong>Opening remarks:</strong></td>
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<td>- H.E. Mr. Paul Robilliard, Australian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand</td>
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<td>- H.E. Mr. Amjad Hussain B. Sial, Secretary General, South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)</td>
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<td>- H.E. Mr. Isra Sunthornvut, Secretary General, ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly</td>
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<td><strong>Inaugural address:</strong> Mr. Suthi Sukosol, Inspector General, Ministry of Labour, representing H.E. General Sirichai Distakul, Minister of Labour, Thailand</td>
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<td>10:15 – 10:30</td>
<td><strong>Introduction to the Workshop</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Chair:</strong> Hon. Mrs. Dina Mahalaxmi Upadhyay, MP, Nepal</td>
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<td><strong>Presentation:</strong></td>
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<td>- Dr. Mika Marumoto, Executive Director, AFPPD - Conference Objectives and Agenda Overview</td>
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<td>- Introduction of Participating Ministers, Members of Parliament, Parliamentary Staff and Guests</td>
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<td>10:30 – 11:00</td>
<td><strong>Group photo and Coffee break</strong></td>
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<td>11:00 – 12:00</td>
<td><strong>Session 1: Regional Overview of Human Trafficking in South and South-East Asia</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Chair:</strong> Hon. Lord Fusitu’a, MP, Tonga</td>
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<td>- Mr. Willem Pretorius, Deputy Team Leader, Australia Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons (AAPTIP)</td>
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<td>- The ASEAN Initiatives, Mr. Wanchai Roujanavong, Representative of Thailand to the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC)</td>
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<td>- Gender, Trafficking and Violence Against Women, Ms. Melissa Alvarado, Regional Manager - EVAW, UN Women</td>
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<td>- The SAIEVAC Initiatives, Ms. Sulakshana Rana, Regional Program Coordinator, SAIEVAC</td>
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<td>Lunch</td>
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<td><strong>Session 2: Regional Overview of Inter-governmental Legal and Policy Framework and Systems:</strong>&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>Theme:</strong> How can parliamentarians contribute to accelerating action against human trafficking, thus achieving the Sustainable Development Goals?&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>Chair:</strong> Dr. Mika Marumoto, Executive Director, AFPPD&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>Presentations:</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Presentation on Protocol to Prevent, Suppress &amp; Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children by Ms. Marika McAdam, Independent Consultant&lt;br&gt;- Presentation on SDG Alliance 8.7 and High Time Movement SDG 16.2 by Ms. Simrin Singh, International Labour Organization&lt;br&gt;- Presentation on SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combatting Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution by Ms. Najwa Fathimath, Director of Social Affairs, SAARC Secretariat&lt;br&gt;- Presentation on UN-ACT (COMMIT) processes by Mr. Paul Buckley, Regional Technical Specialist, UNDP&lt;br&gt;- Presentation on CSO Accountability Mechanism by Ms. Myleen Inohiaban, Migrant Forum Asia&lt;br&gt;- Presentation on Challenges faced by the legal fraternity, Mr. Muhammad Mohsen Rashid, Secretary General, SAARCLAW&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Responses from Members of Parliament&lt;br&gt;Hon. Mr. Kamal Safi, MP, Afghanistan,&lt;br&gt;Hon. Mrs. Sanjida Khanam, MP, Bangladesh&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>Q&amp;A</strong></td>
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<td>Coffee Break</td>
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| 16:00  | **Session 3: Good Practices of Strategies to Combat Human Trafficking**<br><br>**Chair:** Ms. Najwa Fathimath, Director of Social Affairs, SAARC Secretariat<br><br>**Good Practice Case Presentations:**<br>- **Prevention:** Presentation(s) on<br  
"Promotion of labour migration governance and its linkages to trafficking, Ms. Anna Olsen, Technical Specialist, ASEAN TRIANGLE<br>- Mr. Rasa Sekulovic, Regional Adviser, Child Rights and Protection, Plan International Asia Regional Office<br>- **Protection:** Presentation on Cost of Inaction on Child Protection by Mr. Stephen Blight, Regional Adviser for Children Protection, UNICEF<br><br>**Q&A**                                           |                                            |
<p>| 19:00  | Dinner Reception: Salon A Room, 2nd Floor    |                                            |
| 20:30  | <strong>Meeting of the Drafting Committee: Sakthong Room, 2nd Floor</strong> |                                            |</p>
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| Day Two    | Session 3: Good Practices of Strategies to Combat Human Trafficking (Continued) | Ms. Najwa Fathimath, Director of Social Affairs, SAARC Secretariat                           | **Good Practice Case Presentations:**  
  - **Repatriation:** Presentation on Repatriation Information Management System (RIMS – A Technology Solution), Ms. Sankalita Shome, Dnet  
  - **Partnership:** Presentation on National Action and Coordinating Group against Violence against Women and Children (NACG), Ms. Razia Ismail, Executive Director, Indian Alliance of Child Rights  
  - **Presentation on Communications for Development (C4D) approach to trafficking prevention** by Ms. Lindsey Higgs, IOM X Programme  

**Special Intervention:**  
- Mr. Manabendra Nath Mandal, Chairman, ATSEC South Asia  

**Q&A**

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|               |  - Presentation on UN-ACT (COMMIT) Data Collection, Analysis and Synthesis by Mr. Paul Buckley, Regional Technical Specialist, UNDP  
  - Dr. Margarita F. Guerrero, Director, Statistical Division, UN Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)  

Special Presentation on Access to Justice and Survivors Bill of Rights by Ms. Dorothy Rozga, Executive Director of ECPAT International (7 Min)  

**Q&A**

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<th>Session 5: Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Adoption of the Declaration and Action Plan</th>
<th>H.E. Dr. Seree Nonthasoot, Representative of Thailand to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)</th>
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|               |  - Presentation on Big Picture and Next Steps in Influencing UN General Assembly for the Essential Evaluation of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, 2017  
  - Adoption of the Declaration  

**Q&A**

|               | Wrap-up & Closing Remarks  
  - Closing remarks, Dr. Rinchen Chophel, Director-General, SAIEVAC  
  - Closing remarks, Dr. Mika Marumoto, Executive Director, AFPPD  
  - Workshop Evaluation  
  - Conference Highlight Video |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
Regional Parliamentarians’ Conference on
Combating Human Trafficking
21 – 22 March 2017 | Bangkok, Thailand

List of Participants

### MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Participants</th>
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</table>
| Afghanistan     | Hon. Mrs. Ruqia Nayel, MP  
                   Hon. Mr. Kamal Safi, MP                                                  |
| Bangladesh      | Hon. Mrs. Salina Begum, MP  
                   Hon. Mrs. Sanjida Khanam, MP                                             |
| Bhutan          | Hon. Mr. Karma Tenzin, MP  
                   Chair of National Committee of Bhutan on Population and Development  |
|                 | Hon. Mr. Tek Bahadur Subba, MP                                              |
| Cook Islands    | Hon. Ms. Selina Napa, MP  
                   Hon. Mr. Tai Tura, MP                                                    |
| India           | Hon. Mr. Boora Narsaiah Goud, MP  
                   Hon. Mrs. Viplove Thakur, MP                                             |
| Indonesia       | Hon. Ms. Ermalena Muslim Hasbullah, MP  
                   Chair of IFPPD                                                             |
|                 | Hon. Ms. Andi Fauziah Pujiwatie Hatta, MP                                   |
|                 | Hon. Ms. Sri Wulan, MP                                                     |
| Kazakhstan      | Hon. Mr. Shavhat Utemissov, MP                                              |
|                 | Hon. Ms. Anar Zhailganova, MP                                               |
| Kyrgyzstan      | Hon. Mr. Dastan Bekeshev, MP                                                |
| Lao PDR         | Hon. Mrs. Vanpheng Keolakhone, MP                                           |
| Malaysia        | Hon. Mr. Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim, MP                                   |
| Maldives        | Hon. Mr. Saud Hussain, MP                                                   |
| Nepal           | Hon. Ms. Dina Mahalaxmi Upadhyay, MP  
                   Hon. Mr. Bhishma Nath Adhikari, MP                                       |
| Phillipines     | Hon. Ms. Bernadette Cruz Herrera Dy, MP                                     |
| Sri Lanka       | Hon. Dr. Sudarshini Fernandopulle, MP                                       |

Annex 2: List of Participants
State Minister of City Planning and Water Supply

Hon. Mr. Lakshman Senewiratne, MP
State Minister of Science, Technology and Research

17. Tajikistan
Hon. Ms. Gulbakhor Ashurova, MP
Hon. Mr. Jamshed Murtazaqulov, MP

18. Thailand
Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont, MP
Secretary-General, AFPPD

19. Tonga
Hon. Lord Fusitu’a, MP
Co-Chair of AFPPD Standing Committee on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
Hon. Mr. Mateni Tapueluelu, MP

20. Vietnam
Hon. Mme. Le Thi Nguyen, MP
Vice Chair of PCSA

RESOURCE PERSONS
(Alphabetical Order)

Ms. Melissa Alvarado
Regional Manager - EVAW, UN Women

Mr. Stephen Blight
Regional Adviser for Children Protection, UNICEF

Mr. Paul Buckley
Regional Technical Specialist, UN-ACT (COMMIT)

Ms. Najwa Fathimath
Director of Social Affairs, South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

Dr. Margarita Guerrero
Director, Statistical Division, UNESCAP

Ms. Lindsey Higgs
Partnerships Officer, International Organization for Migration

Ms. Myleen Inohiaban
Program Assistant, Migrant Forum for Asia

Ms. Razia Ismail
Executive Director, India Alliance for Child Rights

Mr. Christopher Lomibao
Attorney, Migrant Forum for Asia

Mr. Manabendra Mandal
Chairman, ATSEC South Asia

Ms. Marika McAdam
Independent Consultant

H.E. Dr. Seree Nonthasoot
Representative of Thailand, ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)

Ms. Anna Olsen
Technical Specialist, ASEAN TRIANGLE Project, International Labour Organization

Mr. Muhammad Mohsen Rashid
Secretary-General, South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation in Law (SAARCLAW)

H.E. Mr. Paul Robilliard
Ambassador of Australia to Thailand

Mr. Wanchai Roujanavong
Representative of Thailand, ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC)

Ms. Dorothy Rozga
Executive Director, ECPAT International

Mr. Willem Pretorius
Deputy Team Leader, Australia Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons

H.E. Amjad Hussain Sial
Secretary General, South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

Mr. Rasa Sekulovic
Regional Adviser, Child Rights and Protection, Plan International
Ms. Sankalita Shome
Program Director, Dnet

Ms. Simrin Singh
Senior Specialist on Child Labour,
International Labour Organization

Mr. Suthi Sukosol
Inspector General, Ministry of Labour,
Thailand

Hon. Mr. Isra Sunthornvut
Secretary General, ASEAN
Inter-Parliamentary Assembly

PARLIAMENTARY, NATIONAL
COMMITTEE, AND GOVERNMENT STAFF

Bangladesh
Mr. M. A. Kamal Billah
Deputy Secretary and SPCPD Project
Director

Cambodia
Mr. Ouk Damry
Secretary General, CAPPD

Mr. Eng Vannak
Coordinator, CAPPD

India
Mr. Manmohan Sharma
Executive Secretary, IAPPD

Indonesia
Mr. Umar Aziz
Assistant to Hon. Ermalena Muslim
Hashbullah

Ms. Fini Rostita
Parliamentary Staff

Kyrgyzstan
Ms. Tolonova Aidai
Personal Assistant to Hon. Dastan Bekeshev

Lao PDR
Mr. Bounlert Louanedouangchanh
Director, LAPPD

New Zealand
Ms. Kirsty Walsh
Deputy Executive Director, Family Planning
New Zealand

Philippines
Ms. Anne Janelle Balantakbo Rabe
National Advocacy Officer, PLCPD

Papua New Guinea
Mr. David Newton
Program Manager, Safe Motherhood
Alliance

Sri Lanka
Mrs. Thamara Dissanayake
Private Secretary to the Hon. Minister of
Social Empowerment and Welfare

Mrs. Sajeewa Priyadarshani Rathnagoda
Baranaduge
Accounts Manager, National Secretariat for
Ageing

Tajikistan
Ms. Zulfiya Barotova
Executive Secretary, NCTPD

Tonga
Ms. Kalolaine Tongamafana I Puliva
Makasini
Parliamentary Staff, Legislative Assembly of
Tonga

Vietnam
Mrs. Thai Thi Thanh Nga
Parliamentary Staff

OBSERVERS

Ms. Amihan Abueva
Executive Director, Child Rights Coalition
Asia

Ms. Rangisma Deesawade
Regional Coordinator, ECPAT International

Ms. Valerie Khan
Chairperson, National Action Coordinating
Group (NACG), Pakistan

Mr. Thomas Muller
Deputy Executive Director, ECPAT
International

Mr. Mikhael Pradhan
Head of Advocacy, World Vision
Ms. Asha Sharma  
Senior Program Officer, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Ms. Nadia Carolina Ortega Sanchez  
Intern, ECPAT International

Ms. Caroline Savin  
Communications Officer, UN Women

Mr. Stefan Stoyanov  
Technical Expert on Trafficking and Migration, Terre des Hommes

Ms. Kanokkarn Suksuntichai  
Foreign Relations Officer, Ministry of Labour, Thailand

Ms. Masue Suzuki  
Program Officer, Arigatou International

Mr. Deepesh Paul Thakur  
Advocacy and Justice for Children Director, World Vision

Ms. Sujata Tuladhar  
GBV Technical Specialist, UNFPA Thailand

Ms. Mariana Yevyukova  
Global Coordinator for Children’s Participation, ECPAT International

SAIEVAC

Dr. Rinchen Chophel  
Director General

Ms. Sulakshana Rana  
Regional Program Coordinator

Ms. Alisha Tuladhar  
Regional Finance Manager

AFPPD

Dr. Mika Marumoto  
Executive Director

Ms. Seema Gaikwad  
Policy Research and Advocacy Advisor

Ms. Olesya Kochkina  
Program Specialist – Central Asia

Ms. Pornprapas Sappapan  
Administration Manager

Mr. Anake Lekkoon  
Accounts Manager

Ms. Madevi Sun-Suon  
Special Assistant to the Executive Director

Ms. Adele Marchal  
Research Assistant

Ms. Jirapa Rerkphongsri  
Accounts Officer

Mr. Warachin Phani  
Administrative Assistant

Ms. Rampai Wannasri  
Office Assistant

TOTAL: 106

MPs: 39  
Male: 17 Female: 22

Resource Persons: 24

Parliamentary/National Committee Government Staff: 16

Observers: 14

SAIEVAC Staff: 3

AFPPD Staff: 10
Regional Parliamentarians Conference on Combatting Human Trafficking
21-22 March 2017
Bangkok, Thailand

Statement of Commitment

We, Ministers and Parliamentarians from 21 countries of the Asia-Pacific region, inter-governmental organizations and civil society organizations, assembled at the Regional Parliamentarians Conference on Combatting Human Trafficking in Bangkok, Thailand on 21-22 March 2017, hereby adopt this Statement of Commitment.

Preamble:


2. **Recognizing** the crucial importance of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children which provided for the first time an internationally agreed definition of the crime of trafficking in persons, aimed at preventing trafficking in persons, protecting victims, prosecuting perpetrators, and promoting cooperation among States in order to meet those objectives;

3. **Further recalling** other related commitments, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1963), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), the first Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), obliging Member States to agree and prohibit that no one shall be held in slavery and slave-like conditions;

4. **Recalling** other related conventions and instruments, such as the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) of the International Labour Organization, the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and the Optional Protocols (2002) thereto on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and on the involvement of children in armed conflict, UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979), and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and their Families (1990);

5. **Reaffirming** our commitment to leave no one behind and to the full and effective realization of each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the UN
General Assembly on 25 September 2015, and especially concerned with the fulfilment of goals 5, 8, 10, 16, and 17 with specific targets for the elimination of all forms of violence against all women and children; decent work for all women and men; prohibition and elimination of all forms of child bondage and labour, eradication of forced labour, ending modern slavery and human trafficking in all its forms; implementation of fair and rights-based migration policies;

6. **Taking note** of the thematic debate on human trafficking held by the UN General Assembly in June 2008, which gave Member States a forum for discussion concentrating on prevention, protection and prosecution, and the interactive thematic dialogue on “Taking collective action to end human trafficking,” held by the UN General Assembly in May 2009, which underlined the importance of strengthening collective action by Member States and other stakeholders, including inter-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector and the media;

7. **Further taking note** of the Resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2016 (Resolution 71/1), the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants wherein the Head of States, Governments and High Representatives reaffirmed the importance of the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the relevant Protocols; vigorously combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling with a view to their elimination, including through targeted measures to identify victims of human trafficking or those at risk of trafficking;

8. **Recalling** relevant sub-regional and regional mechanisms and initiatives such as the Hanoi Declaration and the Hanoi Plan of Action (1998), which, among others, committed to intensifying individual and collective efforts to address transnational crimes, including trafficking in persons; the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime (2002); the Colombo Process (2003); the Association of South East Asian Nations Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons, Particularly Women and Children (2004); Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking (COMMIT) Process (2004); the Abu Dhabi Dialogue (2008); the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons (2017); the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution (2002); the SAARC Convention on Regional Arrangements for the Promotion of Child Welfare in South Asia (2002);

9. **Reaffirming** the commitments made at the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (ICPPD), the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD PoA) adopted in Cairo in 1994, and the Framework of Actions for the follow-up to ICPD PoA Beyond 2014, to prevent all international trafficking in migrants, including for the purpose of prostitution; and calling on governments of countries of origin, transit and destination to adopt effective sanctions against those who organize undocumented migration, exploit undocumented migration or engage in any form of international traffic in women, youth and children;

10. **Asserting** the importance of South-South cooperation, and specifically the importance of our sub-regional inter-governmental bodies: the South Asian Association for Regional
Cooperation (SAARC), the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and Parliamentarians from Central Asia, and other smaller and emerging regional communities;

11. **Recalling** the Kathmandu Declaration of the South Asia Parliamentarians’ Meeting to Accelerate Collective Efforts to End Early, Child and Forced Marriage (2016), the Declaration and Recommendations made by the Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development toward the G7 Ise-Shima Summit (2016) to reaffirm the commitment to human security for all, and the Statement of Commitment made at the 11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference (2016) to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment and eliminate violence against women and girls;

12. **Recognizing** the importance of the South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC) mandate and the Regional Action Plans, and the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Children;

**We, hereby, commit to:**

13. **End** human trafficking in all its forms;

14. **Review, amend, enact and enforce** legislation on prevention, prosecution, protection, including rehabilitation of survivors, and other measures through accelerated coordination, as necessary, to criminalize trafficking in persons;

15. **Reinforce** the accountability of Member States in addressing human trafficking and in enabling parliamentarians to play a strong advocacy and monitoring role on policy and legal reform, and implementation;

16. **Ensure** a comprehensive approach to trafficking in persons and address the need for people-centered, gender transformative implementation of targeted measures with assurance of human and financial resources and investments, nationally and regionally;

17. **Ensure** the systematic follow-up and review of all commitments we are making today, and inform the National Voluntary Review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of progress made under goals 5, 8, 10, 16, and 17;

18. **Strengthen** the capacity of law enforcement, immigration, education, social welfare, labour and other concerned public services, institutions and officials in the prevention of trafficking in persons and protection of victims, taking into account the role of communities and related community protection mechanisms and the need to respect human rights and child- and gender-sensitive issues;

19. **Create** an enabling environment and opportunities for positive, safe and meaningful participation for civil society organizations and all other stakeholders;
20. **Reaffirm** the importance of improved data collection, particularly by national authorities. Such data should be comprehensive and accurate, timely and reliable, and disaggregated on income, gender, age, race, religion, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics;

21. **Call upon** States that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime; the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. We also call upon States that have not done so to consider acceding to the relevant International Labour Organization Conventions and for all countries to give full effect to all its provisions; the UN Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communication procedure (2014); the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990);

22. **Provide** access to all basic services, including health and legal services, taking into account the fact that human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation has serious, immediate and long-term consequences on health, including sexual and reproductive health, and ensure access to services for physical, psychological, social recovery and rehabilitation of trafficked persons;

23. **Ensure** a zero-tolerance policy against all those involved in trafficking in persons;

24. **Work towards** ending the immigration detention of children;

25. **Continue** the dialogue and create a process for periodic reviews of the implementation of this Statement of Commitment.

*Adopted in Bangkok, Thailand on 22 March 2017 by Ministers and Parliamentarians from 21 countries of the Asia-Pacific Region, inter-governmental organizations, and civil society organizations.*
Papua New Guinea Today: “Tonga Commits to Ending All Forms of Human Trafficking”

Tonga Commits To Ending All Forms Of Human Trafficking

Tonga and 45 other countries in Asia and the Pacific have agreed to a statement of commitment to end human trafficking at all forms.

Every related parties or individual that have any connection to such illegal actions will not be tolerated.

Lord Fusitu’a, the Noble’s Representative of the Two Niusa to Parliament and Tonga’s representative to the Regional Parliamentarians Conference on Combating Human Trafficking, says the meeting ensured a zero tolerance policy against all those involved and also reaffirm the critical role of parliamentarians to review, amend, enact and enforce legislation on prevention, prosecution, protection including rehabilitation of survivors.

“We have a legislation that deals with this and there was a court case a few years back which deals with this. So, this is something that we have to deal with on a number of levels. Firstly, the legislation is extremely well set out but there some areas that would need amendment,” Lord Fusitu’a said.

“We need to deal with infra-country trafficking as well as trans-national trafficking, that’s international best practice which was highlighted in our meeting. Secondly, having the legislation there is not good enough we have to ensure implementation and operational enforcement is in place. Thirdly, we need to ensure that there is a national Government policy in place.” He adds there is a need for regulations to be in place to assist and ensure implementation of these laws.

Radio Tonga reports Lord Fusitu’a also believes that it is the role of media to investigate such crimes and let the public be aware of these things.

The regional meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand was organised by the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development.

Photo: Twitter Lord Fusitu’a: Tonga delegation at the AFPPD Regional Parliamentarians Conference on Combating Human Trafficking in Thailand.
National Labour Information Center: “ก.แรงงาน ร่วมต้านค้ามนุษย์”

Link:  http://nlic.mol.go.th/th/ข่าวประชาสัมพันธ์/ก.แรงงาน-ร่วมต้านค้ามนุษย์
Philippine Legislators’ Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD): “PLCPD commits fighting trafficking in persons and promoting rights of women, youth, and elderly in regional conference”

Evaluation of the Regional Parliamentarians Conference on Combatting Human Trafficking

* Please note that the comments have been edited for brevity and appropriate grammar where needed. Any apparent discrepancies in percentages are due to rounding.

Total respondents: 42 participants

Summary: According to the responses, the majority of the participants expressed that they were “satisfied” with each session of the conference. None of the participants expressed dissatisfaction although at least 10% of participants have expressed neutral satisfaction for each session. The session that had the most “Extremely Satisfied” feedback was the last session the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the Adoption of the Statement of Commitment. Overall, the responses demonstrate a general positive feedback although some comments also provided suggestions and areas of improvement (see “General Highlighted Comments – Recommendations”).

Level of Satisfaction per Session

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Extremely Dissatisfied</th>
<th>Dissatisfied</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Extremely Satisfied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plenary Session</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Highlighted Comments

“The opening really sets the scene for the whole conference.”

“It was a wonderful opening. However, it would have been nice to have at least one woman in the panel.”
Highlighted Comment

“There is a great focus on ASEAN although we need to look at how to break it down more regionally.”

Highlighted Comment

- “The first presenter [on the Trafficking Protocol] was fantastic in content and delivery.”
Highlighted Comments

- “I am interested on the topic about working with communities as an effective mechanism.”
- “There is an obvious need to continue driving for a unified push.”
- “I gave a 5 because the presentation on the Communication for Development Approach by IOM X was very good.”
Highlighted Comments

- “Both speakers were fantastic and easy to understand.”
- “The presentations on data were great. However, the question is how do we put it all into effective action plans?”

Highlighted Comment

- “This commitment is important as a global problem such as human trafficking should have global support and global commitment.”
General Highlighted Comments

Most Useful:

- The sessions highlighted as most useful were: **Session 3** on Good Practices of Strategies to Combat Human Trafficking (expressed by 12 participants), **Session 2** on Regional Overview of Inter-governmental Legal and Policy Framework and Systems (expressed by 7 participants) and **Session 4** on Disaggregated Data, Collection, Analysis, and Synthesis (expressed by 5 participants).

- “Although all the sessions were equally good and relevant, Session 2 was the most useful to me. It was an educative session on how to translate policy to implementation which is a practical problem faced by many countries.”

- “The session on disaggregate data and data collection was useful because it is the major driving change in policy formation and enforcement.”

- “It was all great learnings. I think looking at the mix of action plans was substantial and indicative of the different demographics affected. Sharing of best practices was really beneficial as well.”

Least Useful:

- The majority of responders did not identify a session that they considered as least useful. However, a few have highlighted **Session 4** on Disaggregated Data, Collection, Analysis, and Synthesis (expressed by 5 participants) and **Session 3** on Good Practices of Strategies to Combat Human Trafficking (expressed by 3 participants).

- “Session 1 and Session 4 were least useful. We know that human trafficking is already happening and I am not satisfied with the data information and the solutions presented. The question that we have to answer is where do we go from here?”

- “All sessions were equally useful. However the session on data collection and analysis was a little technical and difficult to understand.”

- “Communication for Development [in Session 3] was about strategies to get the public involved in tackling human trafficking. However, it was not framed for parliamentarians.”

Learn More:

- Participants have expressed that they would like to learn more about a range of topics. The commonly cited topics were: **the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons** (expressed by 6 participants), **prevention and the legal framework** (expressed by 6 participants), and **disaggregate data** (expressed by 6 participants).

- “I would like to learn more about the interlinkages between migration and human trafficking, as well as anti-trafficking laws in the region.”
• “What are the most progressive legislations on trafficking in the region?”

• “I would like to learn more about the Global Plan of Action and its progress.”

Future Actions:

• “We will advocate for legislative improvements and better enforcement of the laws.”

• “We will inform our national colleagues about the Statement of Commitment and follow up with respective parliamentarians from Nepal, India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.”

• “We will conduct more consultations in order to propose policy, particularly involving existing government institutions.”

• “The information technology in repatriation is a very good system to replicate in all countries of origin for migrant workers.”

• “We will facilitate coordination with related commissions and women parliamentarians caucus to invite relevant ministries, especially the National Committee for Counter Trafficking, to clarify and report the activities of fighting human trafficking and enforcement of laws and policies.”

• “We will raise public awareness, research on the status of my own nation regarding human trafficking and forced labor, and work on the legislation to implement the adopted Statement of Commitment.”

Recommendations:

• Recommendations in the comments centered on the pedagogy of the conference, namely the need for less repetition in presentation content and for more interactive work, as well as timing and media support.

• “There were too many presenters with similar content.”

• “More interactive sessions and group work are needed. Perhaps a future facilitator with a communications background can help to keep the groups energized.”

• “It would have been nice for the conference to have a more participatory approach such as group work so that participants can engage in conversations more actively.”

• “The timing for each session must be strict as the speakers often talked over their limit. There should be a bell warning.”

• “I think reducing the number of presentations and focusing on quality will help facilitate comprehensive discussions.”

• “Presentations have a lot of text but it would be useful to have more data and infographics.”
• “AFPPD could be more proactive in promoting the meeting to the media to raise awareness and increase the public profile on this issue.”

Other:

• “Thank you all the organizers of this meeting. It was very fruitful and we should all join hands to combat human trafficking.”

• “We will need frequent meetings with related government organizations in neighboring countries to combat trafficking together.”

• “The conference was an interesting one to alert those countries and regions like the Pacific to wake up as we do not know what the future will hold.”
Honourable,

i. Mr. Suthi Sukosol, Inspector General, Ministry of Labour representing the Honorable Mr. Sirichai Distakul, Minister of Labour

Your Excellency,

ii. H.E. Paul Robilliard, Ambassador of Australia to Thailand

iii. H.E. Amjad Hussain Sial, Secretary General of the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation,

iv. H.E. Isra Sunthornvut, Secretary General of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly,

v. Dr. Rinchen Chophel, Executive Director of the South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. On behalf of the members of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the Government of Australia for their long-standing commitment to human rights and gender equality, and their support for this Regional Parliamentarians’ Conference on Combatting Human Trafficking.

2. I extend my gratitude to our partner, the South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children, for their immense contributions as a co-organizer of this meeting.
3. I am also delighted to welcome our partners who are joining us in working together toward our common goal to fight human trafficking, and stop the exploitation of women, men and children in Asia-Pacific and beyond.

4. Last March, with the support of the Government of Australia, AFPPD successfully held the South Asia Parliamentarians’ Meeting on Child Marriage. It led to the adoption of the Kathmandu Declaration by 25 Members of Parliament who committed themselves to end early, forced and child marriage.

5. This March, we aim to tackle one of the world’s most shameful crime. Human trafficking is a worldwide epidemic that profits from the victimization and exploitation of human beings. While the vast majority of victims are women and girls, men and boys are also affected by this inhuman trade every day.

6. Human trafficking is a complex crime. It can take many forms - from sexual to labor exploitation. However, they share similar consequences where human rights and dignity are violated; where families are torn apart and victims risk physical and mental health damage.

7. Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is clear that this modern-day slavery must end. We have to work with each other – at the regional, sub-regional and international levels. Only through cooperation, can we effectively work to prevent trafficking, protect and reintegrate victims, and prosecute traffickers.

8. Over the past decades, the global community has stepped up to combat human trafficking. The Trafficking Protocol has been ratified by 170 parties since its adoption in 2000. More
recently, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has highlighted trafficking in 5 out of its 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

9. At the sub-regional level, ASEAN and SARRC have established counter-human trafficking laws and human rights bodies. And at the national level, countries have developed anti-trafficking national plans. In Thailand, several Ministries oversee this work and I am glad that today we are joined by Mr. Suthi Sukosol, Inspector General, Ministry of Labour representing the Honorable Mr. Sirichai Distakul, Minister of Labour to share his views.

10. While these progresses are commendable, we still face many challenges today. Low conviction of human traffickers poses a concern while victim identification and data collection remain key challenges.

11. The review of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons by the United Nations will take place in the upcoming months. It is therefore a timely opportunity to revisit the causes of this issue, and learn from each other.

12. As the Secretary-General of AFPPD, it is my hope that this conference will provide meaningful conversations and shared ideas. I hope we can use these two days to reflect on the situation in our own country and region, and formulate national and regional action plans together.

13. Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, let me conclude by these words.

14. There is much to be done at the national, regional, and international levels. Together, we must work together to
strengthen our commitment to end human trafficking. But beyond this, we must also strengthen our commitment to address the root causes including issues related to gender equality and women’s empowerment, health and education, among others.

15. Thank you.
Remarks by H.E. Paul Robilliard
Australian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand
Regional Parliamentarians Conference on Combatting Human Trafficking
March 21, 2017, Bangkok, Thailand

Australia’s support to AFPPD

Australia is pleased to be able to be long-term supporter of the AFPPD and its activities to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment.

AFPPD is an important voice in our region working to end violence against women and girls.

Parliamentarians’ understanding and commitment to achieving gender equality is essential to improving the lives of women and girls in all our communities.

As key decision-makers, law-makers and the representatives of your communities, you not only reflect the attitudes and aspirations of your communities but you are able to influence and lead those attitudes and make real change to lives of your communities.

Human trafficking is a grave violation of human rights - we all need to take action on at every level, and at every opportunity. Your unique position in your communities is one that means that you can make a real difference.

Australia looks forward to hearing about the outcomes from this important meeting and continuing to work with you to stop human trafficking in our region.

Australia’s efforts to combat human trafficking and slavery

Australia is strongly committed to preventing and combating human trafficking and slavery.

Of the estimated 21 million people worldwide subject to forced labour, over 50 per cent are in the Asia-Pacific region.

In March last year, our Foreign Minister launched Australia’s new International Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery, focusing our efforts in this neighbourhood, in partnership with Southeast Asian countries including through the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime (the Bali Process).

During UN General Assembly Leaders’ Week last September we declared modern slavery a priority for the Australian Government. Foreign Minister Bishop gave her full support to the newly launched ‘Alliance 8.7’ named for Sustainable Development Goal Target 8.7: a global partnership with a mission to assist all UN member states to eradicate forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and all forms of child labour.

Given the immense global footprint of human trafficking and slavery, Australia is encouraging donors and multilateral agencies to develop a more strategic and coherent international response working in partnership with civil society and the private sector to draw on their expertise, networks and reach to the most vulnerable communities but harmonisation will only succeed if all stakeholders, including the several mandated UN agencies, cooperate to encourage it.
Parliamentarians here will be interested to know that last month Australia commenced a parliamentary inquiry into modern slavery, looking at whether Australia should adopt national legislation to combat modern slavery comparable to the United Kingdom’s Modern Slavery Act 2015.

**Bali Process Business Forum**

Australia and Indonesia are Co-Chairs of the Bali Process together we work with the 45 member States to secure regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific.

At the Sixth Bali Process Ministerial Conference in March 2016, Ministers endorsed the Bali Declaration, the first-ever political declaration for the Bali Process: - the declaration recognises the need to engage with the private sector to combat human trafficking and related exploitation: including by promoting and implementing humane labour practices throughout supply chains.

We are now working (with Indonesia) to create a Bali Process Business Forum - due to be launched in Perth on 24-25 August

- the Forum will bring together prominent business leaders from the region to discuss trafficking and slavery and make policy recommendations to Ministers on accountability and enforcement

**Australia’s regional engagement and programs**

Australia warmly congratulates ASEAN on the entry into force earlier this month [8 March] of the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP), signed by ASEAN leaders in November 2015:

- an important milestone for strengthening ASEAN cooperation

- Australia stands ready to assist ASEAN Member States to implement obligations under the Convention and its associated Plan of Action: our commitment builds on our proud history of cooperation as an ASEAN Dialogue Partner and through the flagship Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons (AAPTIP) program.

Our $50 million Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons [2013-18] funds work to:

- strengthen criminal justice responses to trafficking at both national and regional levels
- train judges, prosecutors, and investigators to promote fair and just convictions that protect the rights of victims
- boost regional coordination and exchange of information, and
- deliver targeted research that provides valuable insights for anti-trafficking policymakers in the region.
Australia also supports safe and legal migration in the region to provide improved economic opportunities for people in South East Asia and reduce vulnerability of migrants to exploitation:
- our $20 million commitment to the International Labour Organisation’s TRIANGLE in ASEAN program [2015-2025]: helps ASEAN countries reform their labour migration policies and legislation; and provides legal and financial advice to prospective migrant workers; TRIANGLE in ASEAN is delivered in Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Malaysia and Lao PDR.

Australia also supports programs to prevent labour exploitation in supply chains in the Asia-Pacific
- funding of $3 million to the ILO-World Bank Better Work Programme [2016-18]: contributing to improving global supply chains to respect human rights in Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia and Bangladesh; committing $2 million to the UN Women project, Preventing the Exploitation of Women Migrant Workers in ASEAN [2014-17]; providing policy research and advice to countries of the region, and advocating for the rights of women migrant workers.
It is indeed an honour and a privilege for me to address the Inaugural Session of the Regional Parliamentarians’ Conference on Combating Human Trafficking being held in this beautiful city of Bangkok. The presence of the Honourable Parliamentarians at this event is indicative of the priority that the Member States of both SAARC and ASEAN attach to combating human trafficking.

I wish to thank the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) for co-organizing this event under the auspices of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of the Government of Australia. I would also like to thank the hosts for extending warm welcome and generous hospitality to me and my delegation since our arrival here.

This Parliamentarians’ Conference has been convened at an opportune time in the wake of positive regional and global developments in addressing the issue of human trafficking. We have witnessed an increase in the number of countries that have criminalized most forms of trafficking, as set out in the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol, from 33 countries in 2003 to 158 in 2016. Furthermore, the post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda, under multiple Goals, address issues related to human trafficking. Goals 5, 8, 10 and 16 have Targets relating to eliminating violence against women and girls, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation; taking measures for prohibition and elimination of child and forced labour, and ending modern slavery; facilitating safe migration; and ensuring safe working environments and decent work for all.

Similarly, the milestone New York Declaration adopted at the United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants in September 2016 prescribes concrete actions against crimes of human trafficking and migrant smuggling. At the sub-regional levels, ASEAN and the Coordinated
Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking (COMMIT) have taken positive and progressive steps in addressing human trafficking in the region, including through adoption of the ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

Hon’ble Parliamentarians,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In view of widespread trafficking of women and children within and between countries in the South Asian region, SAARC adopted in January 2002 a Regional Convention on Combating the Crime of Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution. The Convention calls for cooperation amongst SAARC Member States in dealing with various aspects of prevention, interdiction and suppression of trafficking in women and children for prostitution, and repatriation and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking. It also calls for prevention of use of women and children in international prostitution networks, particularly where countries of the region are the countries of origin, transit and destination. A Regional Task Force monitors and reviews the implementation of various provisions of the Convention.

I must, however, be frank in admitting that there is room for improvement in the SAARC Regional Convention. In recent years, several Meetings of SAARC mechanisms observed the limited scope of the Convention as a weakness in addressing human trafficking in a holistic manner. However, while cognizant of its limited scope, our experts agreed that it is more pertinent, at this time, to focus on implementing the existing provisions, before making further changes to the Convention.

It is worth mentioning here that, SAIEVAC, an Apex Body of SAARC, has identified Trafficking, and Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation as core areas of collaboration. I am glad to state that, in keeping with the decisions of various SAARC mechanisms, SAIEVAC, since its inception, has consistently endeavoured to address issues of cross-border trafficking and missing children in the region.

Hon’ble Parliamentarians,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

There have been some positive developments that I referred to, but the issue of human trafficking is still a matter of serious concern. The 2016 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons states that 79 per cent of all detected trafficking victims are women and children, with sexual exploitation being the most prominent reason, among others. Given such a grim scenario, I do believe that the scope of the existing SAARC Convention does add further impetus to the work, which is already being carried out by the Member States to address the most pressing aspects of human trafficking in South Asia. In the meantime, we hope to explore more avenues for regional collaboration to address all forms of trafficking in all settings, in a comprehensive manner.

Despite the emergence of various global, regional and national mechanisms and legal instruments, the magnitude of human trafficking is alarming, while effective coordination among key stakeholders continues to remain an enormous challenge. Our responses to tackle the problem of human trafficking are further impeded by lack of adequate knowledge, limited resources and level of cooperation. It is, therefore, a pressing need of the hour to evolve a concerted and well-coordinated response to address the global menace of human trafficking.
Hon’ble Parliamentarians,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the South Asian region, guided by the vision of the SAARC Leaders expressed at the Eighteenth Summit, our Member States remain fully committed to strengthen the existing regional legal framework on prevention of cross-border trafficking in persons; invest in establishing safe shelters, health care, access to legal assistance, and other imperatives for the protection of trafficked persons, especially children and women; strengthen cross-country linkages of state service providers on the issue of repatriation and re-integration of traffic victims; and invest in using technology to find innovative solutions to improve services and information management and sharing. In achieving these goals, I do believe that the role of the Parliamentarians is crucial as key policy makers.

In concluding my remarks, I must express my happiness over the opportunity given to me to be a part of this Conference, which brings together distinguished Parliamentarians from the two regions for in-depth deliberations on the global menace of human trafficking. This Conference is indeed a significant step in the right direction to create stronger partnerships, which will eventually help us achieve better results of our concerted endeavours. I am confident that the positive outcome of this Conference will guide our path to a world where no man, no woman and no child is a victim of trafficking.

I thank you.
Inaugural Address

by

Mr. Suthi Sukosol, Inspector General,
Ministry of Labour

at

Regional Parliamentarians’ Conference on Combating Human Trafficking

21 - 22 March, 2017
Bangkok, Thailand

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Hon. Dr. Jetn Sirathranont, Member of Parliament and Secretary General of Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, AFPPD.

Excellency, Mr. Paul Robilliard, Australian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand.

Excellency, Mr. Amjad Hussain B. Sial, Secretary General, SAARC.

Excellency, Mr. Isra Sunthornvut, Secretary General, ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly.

Hon. Members of Parliament from South Asia, South East Asia and Pacific Countries and Pacific Small Island States.

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is my great pleasure, on behalf of the Labour Minister, to participate in this very important Regional Parliamentarians’ Conference on Combating Human Trafficking.

2. This conference comes at an opportune time; we will reinforce anti-trafficking programmes and commitments, and present progress and
achievements in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons to strengthen firm partnership, to improve national, regional, and international efforts.

3. More resources are being allocated to combat trafficking through various regional programs in the ministerial level and also the tripartite national working groups such as the ASEAN’s Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children of the Association, the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking, and ASEAN Tripartite Action to Enhance the Contribution of Labour Migration to Growth and Development, ASEAN TRIANGLE.

4. To succeed in resolving prevailing challenges, we have to further raise awareness on trafficking and its devastating consequences, and recognize the importance of understanding and cooperation amongst stakeholders in society, including government, employers, employees, workers’ organisations, NGOs, and academic institutions. More collective and coordinated strategic thinking is imperative in formulating plans, policies, laws and programmes to address and resolve trafficking issues.

5. Thailand, as we all know, is a source, transit and destination country for men, women and children subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking. The Ministry of Labour in Thailand works through its various departments. In particular, the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare emphasizes collaboration among relevant agencies and enforces intensively and concretely the laws against human trafficking. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) is responsible for the provision of assistance and protection to victims of trafficking, operation of shelters and providing rehabilitative support.

6. In striving to address human trafficking, the Government of Thailand established a specialized anti-trafficking prosecution division and an anti-trafficking court division, while increasing anti-trafficking
training for police, prosecutors, judges, labour inspectors, social workers, and navy personnel. Moreover, the Ministry of Labour, Thailand concluded MOUs with the Government of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam with regard to better management of safe and decent migration.

7. We also revised and enacted Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act 2008 The Criminal Code of Thailand and the Migrant Workers Employment Act to enable more effective law enforcement.

8. In 2016, the Project Combating Unacceptable Forms of Work in the Thai Fishing and Seafood Industry was launched; it was conducted through the collaboration of the Ministry of Labour, the European Union and the International Labour Organisation. The project seeks to address the issues of labour exploitation, forced labour and child labour that has created victims of human trafficking in this country.

9. Thailand also ratified the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 of the International Labour Organization (ILO). The ratification of the convention should benefit all concerned parties. For instance, seafarers should be provided with protection, good working conditions, up-to-standard safety and hygiene, welfare and other benefits, while ship-owners will be monitored so that they comply with the international standard.

10. Thailand has played an important role in ASEAN’s efforts in combating human trafficking, and you will hear more about this in coming two days especially from Mr. Wanchai Roujanavong, Thailand’s representative to the ASEAN Commission on Women’s and Child Rights, and from Mr. Siree Nonthasoot, Representative of Thailand to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights.

11. In closing, I would like to make a few suggestions and recommendations:
• Build stronger allies, for the prevention, protection, prosecution and repatriation of trafficked persons;

• Review and harmonize immigration laws and policies making them gender-responsive and in accordance with international protocols;

• Commit to creating a conducive environment for civil society participation, the role of social media, in monitoring, formulating, and enforcing legislation and providing related services for the needs of trafficked persons in accordance with UN, ILO and international standards;

• Commit to producing trafficking-relevant databases, that will enable governments to formulate evidence-based comprehensive policies and plans;

12. I wish you all a successful and productive conference for the next two days.

Thank you.
Regional Parliamentarians Conference to Combat Human Trafficking ~ Objectives and Agenda Overview ~

MARCH 21-22, 2017
BANGKOK
MIKA MARUMOTO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ASIAN FORUM OF PARLIAMENTARIANS ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

- Strengthen regional platforms to improve advocacy, coordinate and share good practices and information to combat human trafficking;

- Discuss how to use parliamentarians’ oversight and budgetary powers to address trafficking and to monitor and realize effective implementation of related laws and policies;

- Strengthen parliamentarians’ capacity in overseeing implementation of legislation and policies against trafficking in the region and discuss steps to improve parliamentary mechanisms to secure effective enforcement;

- Develop common strategies/sub-regional action plans for parliamentary and cross-sectoral cooperation to prevent trafficking and promote south-south cooperation.
AGENDA OVERVIEW

Session 1: Regional Overview of Human Trafficking
Session 2: Inter-governmental Legal/Policy Frameworks and Systems
Session 3: Good Practices of Strategies to Combat Human Trafficking
Session 4: Disaggregated Data, Collection, Analysis and Synthesis
Session 5: Adoption of a Statement of Commitment and Action Plans

Expected Results:
Increased awareness, understanding, and actions against TIP
Role of Parliamentarians in urgently combating Trafficking in Persons (TIP)

Key Phrase 1: TIP in the Context of AFPPD Vision: “Reality Check of TIP and East Asia”

Key Phrase 2: TIP and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) “Why Parliamentarians’ actions are imperative?”
AFPPD’s Vision & Trafficking in Persons (TIP)

VISION: AFPPD envisions a world where all, especially, women and girls have equal rights and opportunities, and can enjoy a safe, healthy and dignified life throughout their lives

==> The reality today is far from the world AFPPD envisions....


For example....

Human Trafficking in East Asia & Pacific

- **More than 60 Countries**: the number of countries where trafficking victims from East Asia have been detected
  
  ==> the most geographically dispersed group of victims around the world.

- **South East Asia is destination** for short, medium and long-distance trafficking.

- **Women including a significant number of girls** account for most of the 2,700 victims detected whose profiles were reported during the period of 2012-2014.

- **Children comprise nearly a third of the victims** detected in East Asia and the Pacific

Forms of Exploitation in South East Asia

- **Sexual exploitation** constitutes 61% of the most frequently detected form of exploitation.
- **Forced marriages** were reported in the Mekong area, Cambodia, China, Myanmar and Viet Nam. This form of trafficking involves the recruitment of young women or girls to be sold as wives, often abroad.
- **Most frequently reported types of forced labour** was trafficking in the **fishing industry**, which was detected in Cambodia, Indonesia and Thailand.
- **Domestic servitude** in both origin and destination countries.

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"Combatting Trafficking" in the Context of AFPPD's Strategic Framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic Arguments and Demographic Dividend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Family Planning/SRHR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Political Participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Youth</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Education Employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Life Skills and Comprehensive Sexuality Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Elderly</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Social Protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Social Welfare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Healthy and Active Ageing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Older Persons’ Contributions (e.g. volunteer, decent work, intern)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Safety and Security**
- **Health**
- **Participation**

**Note:** AFPPD has three Standing Committees working on (1) Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, (2) Investing in Youth, and (3) Active Ageing.
Addressing TIP in the SDGs Framework

**SDG 5.2**
Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

**SDG 8.7**
Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labor in all its forms.

**SDG 10.7**
Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

**SDG 16.2**
End abuse, exploitation, trafficking, all forms of violence against and torture of children.

**SDG 17.18**
By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries (e.g. SIDS) to increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data, disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national context.
Why “parliamentarians” in combatting TIP?

MISSION: AFPPD aims to realize its vision through parliamentary work:
(1) Advance for and formulate/amend policies and legislation;
(2) Hold governments accountable;
(3) Advocate for budget increases and financial resources for implementation of laws and regulations

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:
“We acknowledge the essential role of national parliaments through their enactment of legislation and adoption of budgets and their role in ensuring accountability for the effective implementation of our commitments.”

Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Declaration (para 45)

JULY 30: World Day Against Trafficking Persons

The Blue Heart Campaign represents the sadness of those who are trafficked while reminding us of the cold-heartedness of those who buy and sell fellow human beings. The use of the blue UN colour also demonstrates the commitment of the United Nations to combating this crime against human dignity.

* An awareness raising initiative to fight human trafficking and its impact on society.
* The Blue Heart Campaign seeks to encourage involvement and inspire action to help stop this crime.
* The Campaign also allows people to show solidarity with the victims of human trafficking by wearing the Blue Heart.
Visions in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Heads of State and Government from more than 150 countries adopted a set of 17 SDGs with 169 associated targets.

Vision: “.......envisage
* a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity, the rule of law, justice, equality and non-discrimination; of respect for race, ethnicity and cultural diversity; and of equal opportunity permitting the full realization of human potential and contributing to shared prosperity.
* a world which invests in its children and in which every child grows up free from violence and exploitation.
* a world in which every woman and girl enjoys full gender equality and all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment have been removed. ............”
(para 8)
**Annex**

**Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) & Trafficking in Persons (TIP)**

**Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.**

*Target 5.2* “Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.”

**Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all**

*Target 8.5:* “By 2030 achieve a full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men.”

*Target 8.7:* “Take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, eradicate forced labour, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers.”

*Target 8.8:* “Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers including migrant workers, in particular women migrants and those in precarious employment.”

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**Goal 10: To reduce inequality within and among countries**

*Target 10.7:* “Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.”

**Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.**

*Target 16.2:* “End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.”

**Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development**

*Target 17.18* “By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and Small Island Developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.”
REGIONAL OVERVIEW OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN SOUTH AND SOUTH EAST ASIA

(CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE)

Regional Parliamentarians Conference on Combatting Human Trafficking
Bangkok, 21 March 2017
Willem Pretorius

Size of the problem

According to the 2016 Global Slavery Index:

- Estimated number of people in modern slavery **globally** – 45.8 million
- **Asia Pacific** – 30.4 million enslaved – regional proportion of global number: 66.4 % - average government response rating: 34.8/100
- All forms of modern slavery were identified, including forced labour, child soldiers, forced begging and commercial sexual exploitation of women and children
- Men and women experienced forced labour in manufacturing, agriculture, food production and construction
- Women were also vulnerable to sexual exploitation, forced marriage and domestic servitude
## How are countries doing? US TIP Report 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Prosecutions</th>
<th>Convictions</th>
<th>Victims Identified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Global</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>18,930 (857)</td>
<td>6,609 (456)</td>
<td>77,823 (14,262)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Asia and Pacific</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>10,196 (418)</td>
<td>3,192 (146)</td>
<td>38,257 (4,724)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## The previous situation

- **No** agreed international legal definition: different understandings within and between countries
- **Few** countries with laws against trafficking
- **Little or no** cooperation across national borders
- **Limited** experience of criminal justice agencies in investigating and prosecuting trafficking
The current situation

• An agreed definition and strong international laws against trafficking
• Improved understanding of how trafficking happens and why
• Most countries have adopted new laws or reformed old ones
• Changes at the national level with respect to victim protection
• Greater role for civil society / recognition of the need to involve business

The current situation

• Enhanced cooperation between agencies and others within countries
• Increasing law enforcement experience in investigating trafficking
• Increased cooperation (formal and informal) across national borders
• Some limited experience in prosecuting and adjudicating trafficking cases
On-going challenges

- Trafficking a **complex** problem: not just a crime but a migration problem, human rights problem; market problem
- Investigation of trafficking is **difficult**, complex and resource-intensive
- Still very few victims agree to cooperate
- Very few prosecutions and convictions relative to the agreed size of the problem

Some tentative conclusions

- Need to acknowledge obstacles, limitations and conflicting priorities
- Importance of a whole-of-system response based on agreed objectives and standards
- Law enforcement capacity to influence / shape national response
- Value of an international cooperation based on agreed standards and procedures.
THANK YOU...
ASEAN Initiatives to Combat Human Trafficking and ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP)

Wanchai Roujanavong
ACWC Thailand

• TIP is a serious problem to all ASEAN Member States
• ASEAN have three statuses: sending countries, receiving countries, and countries that both send and receive
• TIP within ASEAN and outside ASEAN
• The leaders of ASEAN have strong determination to seriously combat TIP and to cooperate within ASEAN and countries around the world to eliminate this problem from this region.

• TIP of Rohingya is a good example case in fighting TIP with cooperation among countries involves and with sustainable solutions

• ASEAN Summit had agreed to have a strong Convention as an effective instrument to work together in combating TIP in the region

• ACTIP was drafted based on the UN TIP Protocol with the aim of making ACTIP better than the UNTIP Protocol
• All ASEAN leaders signed the ACTIP in the ASEAN Summit Meeting on 21 November 2015.
• Six countries have ratified the Convention, i.e. Singapore, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar and the Philippines (8 Feb. 2017)
• ACTIP is in force 30 days after the sixth ratification. Thus, ACTIP will be in force in March 2017.

• ACTIP was drafted because the leaders of ASEAN have strong determination to seriously combat with TIP and to cooperate within ASEAN to eliminate this problem from this region.
• ACTIP was drafted based on the UN TIP Protocol with the aim of making ACTIP better than the UNTIP.
• Philosophy in drafting ACTIP was to go beyond the UN Protocol as much as agreeable.
• Therefore, ACTIP is one of the best regional Convention against TIP.

ACTIP states that each Party shall adopt legislative or other measures to provide higher penalty if the offence:
– causes serious injury or death of the victim including death as a result of suicide;
– commits against vulnerable victim such as victim with physical or mental disability;
– exposes the victim to a life–threatening illness, including HIV/AIDS;
– was committed by an organized criminal group;
– was committed by a public official in the performance of his or her public duties;
– Involves more than one victim.
– (Article 5)

– ACTIP calls for criminalization of the laundering of proceeds of crime, corruption, obstruction of justice, and how to share the confiscated proceeds of crime or property between the Requesting and the Requested States.
– The confiscated proceeds of crime or property should be used to give compensation and assistance to the victims of TIP or return to their legitimate owners.
– (Article 22)
ACTIP provides more protection and assistance to victims of TIP more than those stated in the Protocol.

There are some measures listed in the ACTIP more than those provides in the UN TIP Protocol.

ACTIP will be a very effective instrument for ASEAN to cooperate in fighting TIP.

• ASEAN led by ASEAN SOMTC is working with all sectorial bodies of ASEAN including SOMSWD, ACWC, AICHR to ensure effective implementation of ACTIP through the Bohol Work Plan
• ACWC have many projects to work on especially the identification standards, treatment of victims and training in this area which are the most important parts in fighting TIP in ASEAN
• Projects that have been finished in the previous year:
  • Gender Sensitive Guide for Handling Women Victims of Trafficking in Persons (Brunei)
  • Regional Review on Laws, Policies and Practices within ASEAN Relating to the Identification, Management and Treatment of Victims of Trafficking, Especially Women and Children

• Projects that will start this year:
  • Project on Regional Multi-sectoral Guidelines and Procedures to Address the Needs of TIP Victims in accordance with ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Thailand);
  • Project on Development of a Child Sensitive Guideline for Handling Child Victims of Trafficking in Persons
  • Project on Strengthening the Survivor for Preventing Trafficking in Persons in ASEAN.
**HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

Melissa Alvarado  
Ending Violence against Women Programme Manager  
UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

*Bangkok, 21 March, 2017*

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**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

“Violence against women (VAW) means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women and girls, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”

The 1993 UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women

Violence against women is an obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace.
BACKGROUND

• Violence against women is perhaps the most pervasive violation of human rights worldwide – affecting some 1 in 3 women and girls in their lives.

• Human trafficking is one of the worst forms of violence against women and girls.

  • It is estimated that 71% of the 2.5 million people who are trafficked annually are women and girls with girls representing two out of every three child trafficking victims.

  • The most common form of women and girls' trafficking - 72% - is sexual exploitation.

  • The second most common form of human trafficking is forced labour (20%).

  • It is estimated that 1.4 million people, or 56% of the global total of trafficking victims, are in Asia and the Pacific.

WHAT UN WOMEN DOES TO END ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- UN Women promotes a comprehensive approach to prevent, respond and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in legislation, policy and programming.
- UN Women recognizes the need to connect intersecting forms as violence, such as human trafficking, to national efforts to prevent and respond to VAW.
- This approach recognizes the need to address women’s and girls’ vulnerability to trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced labour by targeting the drivers of violence:

  - harmful social norms
  - poverty
  - gender inequalities

Sources: UN Women Asia and the Pacific

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND TRAFFICKING

- The Beijing Platform for Action identified trafficking for sexual exploitation as a form of violence against women.
- Women’s trafficking can and often does involve all types of VAW:
  - Emotional Violence
  - Economic Violence
  - Physical Violence
  - Sexual Violence

Sources: UN Women (2016)
WOMEN AND GIRLS’ TRAFFICKING

• Trafficking affects more women and girls than men and boys.
• Women and girls are primarily trafficked for sexual exploitation...
• but also for
  • forced marriages
  • begging
  • domestic servitude
  • forced labour and
  • organ removal.


TRAFFICKING FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION - DEFINITIONS

• Trafficking for sexual exploitation is the exploitation of women and children, within national or across international borders, for the purposes of forced sex work.

• Sex trafficking is characterized by the sexual exploitation of a human being in exchange for goods or money.
• The global sex trade is the fastest growing form of commerce, worth $32 billion annually as of 2005.

TRAFFICKING FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN ASIA PACIFIC

- Trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation is the **most virulent form of human trafficking in South Asia**. There are no definite figures about the number of victims.
- **Forced and child marriage** persists in countries throughout the region, particularly in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal and Pakistan.
- The UN estimates more than **130 million girls** in South Asia will be married before the age of 18 between 2010 and 2030.
- The **sex imbalance-related to prenatal sex selection and son preference** has exacerbated the traffic of women and girls to be sold as brides in China and India.

Sources: Global Slavery Index (2016), UNICEF (2016), UNFPA (2016)

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TRAFFICKING FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IS A VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

- Sex trafficking violates women’s right to life, liberty, dignity and security of person.
- Sex trafficking is often referred to as **modern-day slavery**.
- Some acts of sex trafficking involve conduct that can be understood as a form of **torture, inhuman or degrading treatment**.

Sources: Virtual Knowledge Center to End Violence Against Women, UN OHCHR (2014)
TRAFFICKING FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IS ROOTED IN GENDER INEQUALITY

- Women are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking because they are disproportionately affected by poverty and gender discrimination.
  - Poverty, and the lack of economic opportunities for women, as well as the lack of education for girls make them extremely vulnerable and potential victims of human trafficking.
  - Harmful social norms and inequality in the distribution of power and resources between men and women marginalize their value and status in society.

Sources: UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2013), UNODC (2008), UN GIFT

TRAFFICKING FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION – PATTERNS

- There are a number of common patterns for luring victims into situations of sex trafficking, including:
  - A promise of a good job in another country
  - A false marriage proposal turned into a bondage situation
  - Being sold into the sex trade by parents, husbands, boyfriends
  - Being kidnapped by traffickers
  - Sex traffickers frequently subject their victims to debt-bondage.
  - Sex traffickers use a variety of methods to “condition” or “break” their victims (starvation, threats, violence, ...)

Sources: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, UN GIFT
TRAFFICKING FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION - CONSEQUENCES

- Women who have been trafficked may suffer from serious physical and mental health problems.
- Victims of trafficking may also face serious legal consequences.
- Trafficking directly affects the societies from which victims are removed, resulting in cultural and economic losses, and threatening public health.

Sources: The Advocates for Human Rights Stop Violence against Women, UN OHCHR(2014)

TRAFFICKING FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION – ACCESS TO SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS

- Women who have been trafficked may suffer from serious physical and mental health problems and need to access essential services such as health care, social services, justice and police.
- But access to those service is especially complicated for victims or survivors of trafficking for sexual exploitation because of:
  - Deprivation of liberty to access essential services
  - Legal and language barriers as they are often illegally in a foreign country
  - Many women have limited knowledge and limited access to information about their rights and what they can and should do
  - Fear of social stigmatization and even blame from service providers
  - Protections offered to victims of sexual violence can be limited and inadequate

Sources: UN Women, UNODC and UNDP (2017). The Trial of Rape - Understanding the criminal justice system response to sexual violence in Thailand and Viet Nam.
THE TRIAL OF RAPE: BARRIERS TO ACCESS JUSTICE FOR SURVIVORS OF VAW IN THAILAND AND VIET NAM

- The study found that gender discrimination and social norms in the society are reproduced in the criminal justice system and deter the reporting of sexual violence and reduce the likelihood that a woman will persist in seeking redress through the criminal justice system.

“Many victims are turned away and urged to seek mediation or other forms of settlement outside of the formal criminal justice system.”

“Victims are often required to tell their story multiple times or are treated with disrespect and insensitivity.”

“Police may refuse to take their reports, or take reports and then fail to conduct investigations, conduct inadequate investigations, or delay investigations.”

Sources: UN Women, UNODC and UNDP (2017). The Trial of Rape - Understanding the criminal justice system response to sexual violence in Thailand and Viet Nam.

TRAFFICKING FOR FORCED LABOUR

- Trafficking for forced labour is a form of violence, that particularly targets women and girls, as they are more vulnerable to human trafficking.

- Forced labour refers to situations in which persons are coerced to work through the use of violence or intimidation, or by more subtle means such as manipulated debt, retention of identity papers or threats of reporting to immigration authorities.

- Forced labourers may be subject to physical or sexual violence.

- Trafficked women and girls can also be made to serve as ‘wives’.

Sources: ILO (2014), WHO (2012), UN GIFT
FORCED LABOUR IN ASIA PACIFIC

- In Asia and the Pacific, forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery remain a significant problem.

- More than 11 million people in Asia Pacific are victims of forced labour; accounting for well over half of the global estimated number of 21 million victims.

- Domestic work, agriculture, construction, manufacturing and entertainment are among the sectors where forced labour is most often found.

Sources: ILO (2012)

UN WOMEN’S EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE TRAFFICKING

- Legislation and policy development, research and data collection—including costs of VAW

- UN Women’s efforts focus on promoting safe migration for women to eliminate trafficking, by enabling policy, institutional and socioeconomic environments that ensure women’s equal opportunities and benefits from migration.

- UN Women recognizes gender and structural inequalities, vulnerabilities and lack of sustainable livelihoods as the chief drivers of human trafficking.

- It identifies solutions to prevent it such as, greater awareness of safety and risks, better economic opportunities and stronger vigilance by communities.

Sources: UN Women (2013)
UN Women’s Anti-Human Trafficking Programme in India has been implemented across six states of India.

The programme sought to address the problem of trafficking of women and girls by addressing the factors that lead to women/girl’s vulnerability to getting trafficked/exploited.

It identified unsafe migration as one of the major channels through which women and girls tend to get trafficked.

Sources: UN Women (2014)

The Programme:

- Found that livelihood and income enhancement activities are valuable to increase financial gains and need time to be successful
- Created awareness regarding safe migration through women’s and community networks
- Set up vigilance mechanisms in communities to identify people vulnerable to trafficking and help them avoid it
- Supported community organizations to have stronger gendered approaches to deter trafficking

Sources: UN Women (2014)
CLOSING THOUGHTS

- Trafficking is an outrageous issue - we must channel our outrage.
- Ending trafficking will happen when a dramatic shift happens related to the value, status, opportunities, education, sexual and reproductive health and rights that women and girls enjoy.
- We will do well to be led by survivors- the experts.
- Challenging the existing norms and low value that women and girls experience will cause discomfort.
- Ending trafficking requires facing uncomfortable truths - for example:
  - Systems and institutions that fail to protect and are insensitive
  - Lack of opportunities women and girls face
  - Drivers of violence that sexually exploit women and girls.
- It will also bring about unexpected benefits for men and boys when power is shared and women and girls are in possession of full capacities and rights.

THANKYOU!

Melissa Alvarado
E-mail: melissa.alvarado@unwomen.org
SAIEVAC Core Context

1. Corporal Punishment
2. Child Marriage
3. Child Labour
4. Sexual Abuse and Exploitation
5. Trafficking

Lack of systematic follow-up of Child Protection Issues

Fragile Child Protection Systems
According to Global Slavery Index 2016/UNICEF

- Human trafficking is the illegal movement and use of persons. It is a serious crime & violation to human rights. Sadly 45.8 million people are estimated to be trapped in modern slavery with 2 million being children.

- 55% of trafficking victims are women and children.

FASTEST GROWING ORGANISED CRIME NEXT TO DRUGS AND WEAPON

1. Illegal Drugs
2. Arms Trafficking
3. Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking alone generates $32 billion annually
Trafficking in South Asia: A Glimpse

- Trafficking in South Asia is widespread and is clandestine in nature

- Trafficking of South Asian women and children is not just limited to cross border but trans national in nature

- Exact magnitude of trafficking in South Asia is not known due to the given absence of systematically compiled, precise and comparable data

- More than one third of South Asia children are unregistered at birth posing a challenge in tracing missing and trafficked children

---

Trafficking in South Asia: A Glimpse

- In South Asia young girls and children go missing and most of the cases are not reported/recorded therefore data on missing children in the region is not adequate and does not reflect the reality of the problem

- The longer the children are missing the more vulnerable they are and the higher the risk they run of being exploited and trafficked

- In some parts of South Asia human trafficking is on rise due to female foeticide and child trafficking for forced/child marriage
Factors contributing to trafficking in South Asia include a wide array of dynamics such as social, political and economic context along with family and community belief system and personal living condition.

Emerging migration movement and lack of severe border control and restrictive migration policies and lack of migration management policy,

Lack of capacitated and adequate human resource to regulate and monitor the border

Widespread official corruption and ineffective or lack of rule of law resulting in high profit criminal trafficking activity

Lacunae in implementation of law and policies

Lack in coordination and collaboration between multi disciplinary, inter-agency approach when addressing trafficking issue
South Asia is most vulnerable in position in the world to human trafficking

- Gender-based violence
- Discriminatory labour practices
- Patriarchal social structures
- Breakdown of family networks
- Ethnic, racial marginalization and religious Segregation
- Failed and corrupt Governments
- Conflict
- Natural Disaster
- Humanitarian Crises
- Power, hierarchy and social order
- Historical precedents of bonded labour
- Early and forced marriage
- High rates of divorce and social stigma
- Limited educational achievement
- Limited economic opportunity due to lack of employability skills

In South Asia, Bangladesh, India and Nepal are most vulnerable in relation to human trafficking

Ratification Status of International and Regional Convention in South Asia

   - All South Asian Countries have ratified

2. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC)
   - All South Asian Countries have ratified OPSC - Afghanistan has acceded to it but not ratified it.

3. United Nation Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime
   - All countries in South Asia have ratified the convention except Bhutan

4. Under the Palermo Protocols:
   - Protocol to Prevent Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Person especially Women and Children
   - Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air
   - Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition
   - South Asian countries that are state parties to the “Palermo protocol” are: India-Ratified, Sri Lanka Signed
   - South Asian Countries who are state parties to the 1st Protocol under Palermo Protocol are: Afghanistan, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka
   - Ratified by all SAARC Countries

6. SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution
   - Ratified by all SAARC Countries

7. SAARC Convention on Regional Arrangements for Promotion of Child Welfare in South Asia
   - Ratified by all SAARC Countries

8. ILO Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Trafficking Pathways</th>
<th>Tier Placement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>Source, transit and destination country for men, women and children subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking. Internal trafficking is more prevalent than transnational trafficking</td>
<td>Tier 2 – Watch list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>Source and to a lesser extent transit and destination Country for men, women and children subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking</td>
<td>Tier 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>Destination for men women and children for forced labour and sex trafficking but also a Source Country for Bhutanese children subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking within the country and India</td>
<td>Tier 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>Source, destination and transit Country for men women and children subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tier Placement

- Tier 2: Source, destination and transit Country
- Tier 2 – Watch list: Source, transit and destination country
- Tier 2: Source and to a lesser extent transit and destination Country
- Tier 2: Destination Country
- Tier 2: Source, destination and transit Country
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Trafficking Pathways</th>
<th>Tier Placement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maldives</td>
<td>Destination for men women and children subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking and source for women and children for forced labour and sex trafficking</td>
<td>Tier 2 – Watch list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>Source transit and destination country for men women and children subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking</td>
<td>Tier 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>Source transit and destination country for men women and children subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking. Major human trafficking problem is for forced labour</td>
<td>Tier 2 – Watch list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>Primarily a Source and to a lesser extend destination country for men women children subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking</td>
<td>Tier 2 – Watch list</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Strategy to Tackle Trafficking**

**PREVENTION**
- Address the Root Causes
- Ensure education, Employment, Security
- Address Poverty and Structural Barriers
- Ensure Sound and Effective Policies
- Monitor recruitment agencies

**PROTECTION**
- Stringent Laws and Policies Law Enforcement
- Law Implementation
- Legal Assistance
- Empower the Survivors
- End Impunity

**PROSECUTION**
- Investigation
- Criminalisation
- Sensitizing Stakeholders
- Regional Agreements and Mou/ Cooperation
- International Cooperation

**RESCUE, REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION OF SURVIVORS IN THE SOCIETY**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COOPERATION/PRIORITY ACTION AT REGIONAL LEVEL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- Full and Effective operationalization of SAARC Convention on Trafficking;
- Harmonise and Strategise laws and policies on trafficking
- Institute and strengthen Uniform Toll Free helpline
- Promote/use of digital technology solutions to address effective and prompt cross border collaboration/response
- Bilateral/Regional Agreement and use/adopt Standard Operating Procedure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exchange of best practices</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trainings and Capacity Building of Stakeholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote enhanced networking and dialogue with CSOs/NACGs/Trafficking networks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATA sharing and evidence building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expanding partnerships and collaboration with like minded organizations and institutions to create convergent missions and strategies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Progress and Challenges implementing the Trafficking Protocol

Regional Parliamentarians’ Conference on Combating Human Trafficking
Session 2: Regional Overview of Inter-governmental Legal and Policy Framework and Systems

21 – 22 March 2007
Bangkok Thailand

Role of Parliamentarians

Theme: How can Parliamentarians contribute?

Contemporary challenges:

• Freedom and dignity
• Decent work and livelihood
• Global inequality and mass migration
• Exploitation and empowerment
What is the UNTOC?

- A legally-binding instrument
- The only international convention which deals with organized crime
- Signed in Palermo, Italy, in December 2000
- Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2000 and entered into force in 2003
- Represents international commitment to combat transnational organized crime
- Provides States Parties with a platform for cooperation
Statement of Purpose

“The purpose of this Convention is to promote cooperation to prevent and combat transnational organized crime more effectively”

(Article 1, UNTOC)

Commitments under the UNTOC

State parties commit to taking measures, including

- Adopting new frameworks for MLA and extradition, law enforcement cooperation
- Promoting technical assistance and training to strengthen capacity of national authorities
- Criminalization of certain offences in domestic law
  - Participation in an organized crime group (Article 5)
  - Money laundering (Article 6)
  - Corruption (Article 8)
  - Obstruction of justice (Article 23)
Protocols supplementing the UNTOC

- Trafficking in Persons Protocol
- Smuggling of Migrants Protocol
- Trafficking in Firearms Protocol
Trafficking in Persons Protocol

Definition of Trafficking in Persons

...an act

[recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons],

...by means

[threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability...]

...for the purpose of exploitation.

Article 3(a) Protocol
Purpose of the Protocol

Trafficking Protocol

• Prevent and combat trafficking
• Protect and assist victims of trafficking
• Promote cooperation among States parties

Prevent and combat...

• Social and economic measures to address the root causes
  - Article 9(4)
• Research and information campaigns
  - Article 9(2)
• Commercial carriers obligations and border controls
  - Article 11
• Security of travel documents and cooperation in verification
  - Articles 12 and 13
• Training of law enforcement, immigration and other relevant officials
  - Trafficking Article 10(2)
• Discourage demand for all forms of exploitation leading to trafficking
  - Trafficking Article 9(5))
### Protect and assist...

- Protect privacy and identity
  - Article 6(1)
- Provisions of recovery services
  - Article 6(2)
- Compensation for damage suffered
  - Article 6(6)
- Repatriation of victims of trafficking
  - Article 8

### Cooperate...

Cooperation in relation to:
- Prevention of trafficking
- Protection and assistance of trafficked victims

Also, cooperation provisions in the UNTOC are applicable, including
- Mutual legal assistance (Article 18)
- Joint investigations (Article 19)
- Law enforcement cooperation (Article 27)
- Information collection and exchange (Article 28)
- In alleviating vulnerability of socially marginalized groups (Article 31)
Progress implementing the Trafficking Protocol

Global ratification status

As at March 2017
AFPPD Members party to the Trafficking Protocol

- Party to Protocol
- Not party to protocol

Ratification status of AFPPD members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Ratification Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>15 Aug 2014 (a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>14 Sep 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>2 Jul 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>8 Feb 2010 (a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>5 May 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>28 Sep 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>9 Dec 2002 (s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>31 Jul 2008 (a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>2 Oct 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao PDR</td>
<td>26 Sep 2003 (a)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(a) accession
(s) Signed not ratified
### PROGRESS

- Wide global **ratification** of the Trafficking Protocol and harmonized universal agreement on definition
- Several national laws in place **criminalizing** trafficking
- **National Action Plans** in several countries
- **Regional** legal instruments mirroring Trafficking Protocol
- Increased **awareness** about human trafficking
- Increased **capacity** of law enforcers and other actors
- Strengthened understanding of the need for **cooperation** between actors (law enforcement and civil society) and across borders
- Greater understanding of the need for **holistic response** to multi-pronged challenges
Challenges implementing the Trafficking Protocol

CHALLENGES

• Understanding tripartite definition and applying it in practice (identifying and prosecuting) and difference between human trafficking and migrant smuggling
• Integrating trafficking provisions with other criminal provisions and closing legislative gaps
• Reconciling relevant international legal obligations in domestic legislation (including human rights protection)
• Turning understanding into practical criminal justice response and strengthening capacity of law enforcers
• Strengthening international cooperation to investigate and prosecute, protect and prevent trafficking
• Harmonising criminal justice response with labour rights perspectives, migration governance efforts to address structural inequalities
Key points about the Trafficking Protocol

- Men, women and children can all be victims of trafficking
- Exploitation can take many forms
  - Sexual exploitation
  - Forced labour or services
  - Servitude, slavery or similar practices
  - Or other types of exploitation
- The Trafficking Protocol does not interfere with the role of other international law including human rights and humanitarian law
Tools to support implementation

**UNTOC**
- **Assessment Tools**
  - UNTOC Needs Assessment Tool (2016)
- **Issue Papers**
  - Organized Crime at Sea (2013)
- **Other**
  - Model Laws; Case law databases; Manuals

**Trafficking Protocol**
- **Assessment Tools**
  - Trafficking for Organ Removal (2015)
- **Issue Papers**
  - Abuse of Position of vulnerability (2012); Consent (2014); Exploitation (2015);
- **Other**
  - Model Law; Case Law database; Framework for Action; Toolkit

**Smuggling Protocol**
- **Assessment Tools**
  - Assessment on criminal justice response to smuggling (2012)
- **Issue Papers**
  - Smuggling by Air (2010); by Sea (2013); Corruption (2013); Financial or material benefit (2017)
- **Other**
  - Model Law and Case Law databases; Framework for Action; Toolkit

Handbook for Parliamentarians

Inter-Parliamentary Union and UNODC (2009)

Good practice examples
- Definition of trafficking in persons
- Criminalization provisions
- Rights-based approaches to victims
- Prevention provisions
- Monitoring and reporting
- Role of Civil Society
Also see **Model Law**

Available: Arabic, English, French, Russian, Spanish

UNODC

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• **Tel:** +66 2 288 2100
• **Fax:** +66 2 281 2129
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**Marika McAdam**
marika_mcadam@yahoo.com.au
Combatting Human Trafficking
Regional Parliamentarians Workshop

Alliance 8.7

Simrin Singh and Bharati Pflug
21 March 2017, Bangkok

The 2030 agenda for sustainable development

In 2015, world leaders adopted the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals: 17 interrelated goals and 169 associated targets to guide global development.
Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Target 8.7
Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms

- This call to action presents a unique opportunity
- It is a call to work together in innovative new ways and accelerate the response

What is Alliance 8.7?
Focussing global action on SDG Target 8.7

Alliance 8.7 is a coalition committed to achieving Target 8.7. Its mission is:

*to assist all UN member States to fulfil their commitment to take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour and end modern slavery and human trafficking by 2030 and to take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of all forms of child labour including recruitment and use of child soldiers by 2025.*
International instruments on forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour

- Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930
- Convention Concerning the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons, 1949
- Convention Concerning the Elimination of All Forms of Forced Labour, 1957
- Convention Concerning the Abolition of Slavery, 1956
- Convention against Traffic in Women and Domestic Workers, 2000
- Protocol Amending the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, 2000
- Convention on the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of Violence against Women, 2000
- International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Girls
- International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Children
- Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

Alliance 8.7 will coordinate with the many interrelated SDGs

- Goal 4: Quality Education
- Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- Goal 10: Reduced Inequality
- Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- Goal 13: Climate Action
- Goal 14: Life Below Water
- Goal 15: Life on Land
- Goal 16: Peace and Justice
- Goal 17: Partnerships
Inter-related and mutually reinforcing goals, with a network of related targets

**Target 8.7**
Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.

The problem

**21 million people in forced labour**
There are 11.5 million females and 9.5 million males in forced labour, of which 5.5 million are children.

**168 million children in child labour**
The problem

- Universal support for the SDGs is likely to generate a new momentum to end slavery, trafficking, forced labour and child labour
- While individual agencies have taken successful measures, we have to join forces to achieve Target 8.7
- Duplication of efforts to be avoided, upscale best solutions and good practices
- Technological innovation: unprecedented opportunities to share knowledge and monitor progress collectively
**Why an Alliance 8.7?**

Achieving Target 8.7 is possible but we need a new approach

- The pathway to Target 8.7 has been long and much good work has been already done
- This is the opportunity to accelerate and intensify these actions
- Four major obstacles need to be overcome
- Cutting across all of them is the need to enhance our coordination

**Goals**

Target 8.7 cannot be achieved by continuing the status quo

Instead, a *united* approach can accelerate impact
Goals

1. **Accelerating timelines**: act as a catalyst at national, regional, global levels to provide technical expertise to strengthen national policies

2. **Research and Sharing Knowledge**: fill key data gaps, support governments in monitoring progress, drive collaboration on research agendas, develop and support a Knowledge Sharing, Communication and Dialogue Platform

3. **Driving Innovation**: identify priority areas for testing innovative interventions, use new technologies, support public-private partnerships, strengthen South-South Cooperation

4. **Increasing resources**: Alliance 8.7 partners to coordinate in their advocacy for increased resources, have annual meeting of development partners
Action Groups under Alliance 8.7

1. Conflict and humanitarian settings
2. Rule of law and governance
3. Migration
4. Commercial Sexual Exploitation
5. Rural development, social protection and education
6. Supply Chains

During the start-up phase, the ILO is convening this initiative in close consultation with other UN agencies such as UNICEF and IOM. Discussions are being held with entities that are:

- International organizations that are the holders or guardians of public international standards, including member organizations of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT)
- Workers’ and employers’ organizations that represent the key actors in the economy
- Other organizations that have a mandate or a long-standing commitment to these issues
**Operational arrangements**

- Close coordination is also foreseen with the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children (SDG Target 16.2) and the Global Partnership for Education.
- Governance arrangements and principles of engagement, will need to be agreed through these and ongoing discussions.
- Action will take place at national, regional and global levels.
- There will be a global Coordinating Group (ensure coherence among different entities and structures, Secretariat).

**Operational arrangements**

- Friends of Alliance 8.7 (an informal grouping of states committed to supporting achievement of target 8.7), will provide political advocacy.
- *Country Coordination Groups (CCG)* will be established for national level action.
- To register your organization’s interest in joining the Alliance please visit: [www.Alliance87.org](http://www.Alliance87.org)
Contact information

singhs@ilo.org and pflug@ilo.org

www.Alliance87.org

@Alliance8_7

#Achieve87
SAARC
Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution

Najwa Fathimath
Director, Social Affairs
SAARC Secretariat

THE CONVENTION

• Signed on 5 January 2002
• During the Eleventh SAARC Summit, in Kathmandu
• Entered into force on 15 November 2005
THE CONVENTION

› 14 Articles

› Operative Articles

1. Offences
2. Aggravating circumstances
3. Judicial Proceedings
4. Mutual Legal Assistance
5. Extradition or Prosecution
6. Measures to Prevent and Interdict Trafficking in Women and Children
7. Care, Treatment, Rehabilitation and Repatriation of the Victims
8. Implementation
9. Higher Measures

SCOPE OF THE CONVENTION

› The purpose of this Convention is to promote cooperation amongst Member States so that they may effectively deal with the various aspects of prevention, interdiction and suppression of trafficking in women and children; the repatriation and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking and prevent the use of women and children in international prostitution networks, particularly where the countries of the SAARC region are the countries of origin, transit and destination.
Article III – OFFENCES

- ensure that trafficking in any form is an offence under their respective criminal law and make such an offence punishable

- provide for punishment for financing of a place used for trafficking and lets or rents for the purpose of trafficking.

Article IV – AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES

- Courts can take into account factual circumstances which make the commission of offences particularly grave...
  
  - involvement in an organized criminal group/international organized criminal activities
  
  - use of violence or arms
  
  - offence committed while holding or in misuse of public office
  
  - victimization or trafficking of children
  
  - offence committed in a custodial/educational institution, social facility etc.
  
  - previous conviction (esp. of similar offences) in a Member State or any other country.
Article V – JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS

- In trying offences under the Convention, judicial authorities in Member States shall;
  - ensure that the confidentiality of the child and women victims is maintained
  - they are provided appropriate counselling and legal assistance.

Article VI – MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE

- Mutual legal assistance in respect of investigations, inquiries, trials or other proceedings in the requesting State, including;
  - taking of evidence and obtaining of statements of persons;
  - provision of information, documents and other records including criminal and judicial records;
  - location of persons and objects including their identification;
  - search and seizures;
  - delivery of property including lending of exhibits;
  - making detained persons and others available to give evidence or assist investigations;
  - service of documents including documents seeking attendance of persons; and
  - any other assistance consistent with the objectives of this Convention.
Article VI – MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE

- Requests for assistance shall be executed promptly in accordance with their national laws and in the manner requested by the Requesting State.

- In the event that the Requested State is not able to comply in whole or in part with a request for assistance or decides to postpone execution it shall promptly inform the Requesting State and shall give reasons for the same.

Article VII – EXTRADITION OR PROSECUTION

- Offences shall be regarded as extraditable offences (existing and future extradition treaties)

- In the absence of an extradition treaty, if permitted by national laws, Convention to be considered as the basis for extradition

- Extradition to be granted in accordance with the laws of the State to which the request is made.

- Country where alleged offender is present (if offender not extradited), should submit the case (without exception and delay) for prosecution in accordance with the national laws.

- In States where extradition is not permitted under their law, offenders shall be prosecuted and punished by their courts.
Article VIII – MEASURES TO PREVENT AND INTERDICT TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

- Provide sufficient means, training and assistance to authorities to enable them to effectively conduct inquiries, investigations and prosecution.

- Sensitize law enforcement agencies and the judiciary on and other related factors that encourage trafficking in women and children.

- Establish a Regional Task Force – to facilitate implementation and to undertake periodic reviews.

- By mutual agreement, set up bilateral mechanisms, including appropriate mechanisms for cooperation to interdict trafficking in women and children for prostitution.

- Exchange information in respect of agencies, institutions and individuals and also identify methods and routes used by the traffickers through land, water or air (information of the offenders, their fingerprints, photographs, methods of operation, police records and records of conviction).

- Consider taking necessary measures for the supervision of employment agencies in order to prevent trafficking in women and children under the guise of recruitment.

- Endeavour to focus preventive and development efforts on areas which are known to be source areas for trafficking.

- Promote awareness, inter-alia, through the use of the media, of the problem of trafficking in women and children and its underlying causes including the projection of negative images of women.
Article IX – CARE, TREATMENT, REHABILITATION AND REPATRIATION OF THE VICTIMS

- Work out modalities for repatriation of the victims to the country of origin.
- Pending repatriation arrangements, make suitable provisions for their care and maintenance (legal advice and health care facilities)
- Establish protective homes or shelters for rehabilitation of victims. Suitable provisions for granting legal advice, counselling, job training and health care facilities for the victims.
- Authorise the recognised NGOs to establish such protective homes or shelters for victims
- Encourage recognised NGOs in efforts aimed at prevention, intervention and rehabilitation (protective homes or shelters)

Article X – IMPLEMENTATION

- The State Parties to the Convention shall adopt, in accordance with their respective Constitutions, the legislative and other measures necessary to ensure the implementation of the Convention.
Article XI – HIGHER MEASURES

- The measures provided for in the Convention are without prejudice to higher measures of enforcement and protection accorded by relevant national laws and international agreements.

Regional Task Force (RTF)

- To monitor and assess the implementation of various provisions of the Convention
- High level meeting reporting directly to SAARC Meeting of Home/Interior Ministers
- Meetings annually to review and assess implementation of two Conventions
- Developed SOP
- In the pipeline – Regional Helplines for women and children (with SDF)
Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)

- Designed to cover all the operative articles in 8 distinct Thematic Areas
  - 1. Implementation (Article X, II)
  - 2. Defining and criminalizing trafficking in women and children for prostitution (Articles I, III, IV)
  - 3. Mutual legal assistance (Article VI, II) in criminal matters in respect of the offences under the Convention i.e. as amended or enacted
  - 4. Extradition/prosecution within the Convention (Article VII, II)
  - 5. Judicial proceedings/trial (Article V)
  - 6. Prevention and interdiction of trafficking in women and children for prostitution (Article VIII, II)
  - 7. Care, treatment, rehabilitation and repatriation of victims (Article IX, II)
  - 8. Higher measures (Article XI)

- 78 specific action steps sequentially outlined under each thematic area
- Description of the agency (initiator) that should initiate the step
- Addressing some gaps in the Convention, through the SOP
  - For eg. Building on the Convention with the provisions of the UN Trafficking Protocol through expanding list of offences related to human trafficking, especially for prostitution of others and other form of sexual exploitation (such as pornography, pedophilia etc.)
Limitations of the Convention

- Fall below the scope of rights afforded to children by the UN CRC
- Definition-wise inadequate
- Limited in its scope
  - In coverage (covers only women and children)
  - Purposes (Does not account for children in armed conflict, forced labour, organ harvesting, child pornography etc.)
- Focuses primarily on welfare

Broadening Scope of the Convention

- In 2011, SAARC Mechanisms observed that the Convention has been weak in dealing with prevention and suppression of trafficking in women and children in South Asia.
- An exercise to broaden the scope was undertaken, with a Concept Note from Bangladesh.
- However, in 2014, Member States agreed to focus on implementation of existing provisions, before broadening scope of the Convention.
Challenges

- RTF have not been able to meet annually (Deliberations on broadening the Scope, Expert Groups in 3 years)

- RTF Meetings are hosted voluntarily by Member States

- Limited authority of RTF on ensuring implementation of the SOP and implementation of projects proposed (Eg. Regional Helplines for women and children)

- Weakness in Reporting (Lack of authority of the Secretariat, RTFs, Lack of a common reporting format etc.)

Other Mechanisms

- **SAARC Technical Committee on Women, Youth and Children**
  - Meets annually hosted by the Chair of the Technical Committee
  - Review and recommend on subject matters
  - Reports to SAARC governance mechanism – Programming Committee
Other Mechanisms

- SAARC Gender Infobase (SGIB)
  - An online repository of quantitative and qualitative information related to empowerment of women
  - Thematic areas:
    - Violence against women – focusing on Trafficking
    - Feminisation of Poverty
    - Women’s Health (including HIV and AIDS)

Thank you!
Regional Cooperation to Combat Trafficking in Persons: The COMMIT Process and UN-ACT

Paul Buckley, Regional Technical Specialist, UN-ACT
Bangkok, Thailand | 21 March 2017

Outline

1. Overview of human trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region
2. UN-ACT and counter-trafficking
3. The COMMIT Process and Sub-regional Plan of Action (COMMIT SPA IV)
4. Challenges in cross-border collaboration to address TIP
In the GMS, strong intra-sub-regional trafficking patterns, often linked to extensive labour migration flows, with Thailand serving as a key destination country.

Domestic trafficking flows most recognized in China and Cambodia, underdocumented phenomenon in many other states.

Trafficking flows also go from the GMS, to East Asia, SE Asia, the Middle East, Europe, the US and Africa.
UN-ACT’s areas of work:

- **Support to governments** through the COMMIT Process
- **Increasing cooperation** between the COMMIT Process and other countries and regional actors to effectively counter-trafficking
- **Increasing evidence-base in counter-trafficking** through research, dissemination and advocacy for policy makers, non-state actors and the wider public
- **Support to civil society** and other actors to engage in anti-trafficking efforts more effectively

**Counter-human trafficking**

**The COMMIT Process and Plan of Action**

- **Established in 2004** through an MoU between the countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS: Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam)
- COMMIT is a **multi-country and multi-stakeholders framework** against human trafficking, engaging relevant government agencies, IOs, CSOs and the private sector
- UN-ACT serves as its **Secretariat**, providing technical, coordination support
- At sub-regional level, there are multi-year Sub-regional Plans (SPAs); currently in SPAIV (2015-2018)
Counter-human trafficking

Policy and cooperation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protection</th>
<th>Prosecution</th>
<th>Prevention</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Victim identification</td>
<td>- Law enforcement</td>
<td>- Risk reduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Immediate assistance</td>
<td>- Proactive investigations</td>
<td>- Labour rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Referral mechanisms</td>
<td>- Criminal justice</td>
<td>- Ethical recruitment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- International cooperation often requires:
  - Policy frameworks, agreements and SOPs
  - An understanding of the structural/environmental factors around patterns

COMMIT: Policy and cooperation

Legal frameworks and policies protect the rights of all trafficked persons
  - Bringing TIP related legislation in line with relevant international standards
  - Capacity building around on legislation and policies on trafficking in persons
  - National Plans of action, implemented, monitored and reviewed

Bilateral/multilateral cooperation to combat human trafficking strengthened
  - Bilateral/ multilateral MoUs or agreements on human trafficking signed, operationalized and reviewed, between COMMIT countries, and also with those beyond COMMIT
  - Information-sharing on human trafficking between ASEAN and COMMIT regularized

Policy and programming under COMMIT are based on relevant research and data
  - Relevant research reports, data systems and analysis on trafficking in persons developed and utilised for governments’ decision-making
COMMIT: Protection of victims

Identification of trafficked persons
• Standardized regional identification procedures, and commonly agreed indicators of potential trafficking cases
• 24-hour national reporting hotlines

Provision of appropriate protection and rights-based assistance
• National referral mechanisms to support victims of trafficking
• Protection and assistance for victims of trafficking, particularly children, both in country of destination and in their country of origin
• Minimum standards on residential care for victims of trafficking and their repatriation

(Re)Integration support
• Long-term comprehensive support to all victims of trafficking, based on individual (re)integration plans according to agreed guidelines

COMMIT: Criminal justice

Criminal justice cooperation on human trafficking cases
• Information sharing mechanism on human trafficking cases through national focal points
• Bi-lateral intelligence-sharing protocols in COMMIT for cooperation
• COMMIT guiding principles on criminal justice cooperation

A victim centered approach in prosecutions to ensure the rights of victims
• Ensuring informed, voluntary consent
• Provision of legal counselling through criminal justice and mechanisms for compensation

Effectiveness in prosecution processes strengthened
• Information provided to public on TIP investigations, prosecutions and convictions
• Training for relevant officials in international cooperation and cross-border investigations
• Pro-active investigations and evidence-gathering beyond victims’ testimonies
Prevention interventions address identified vulnerabilities to trafficking in persons

- Identification of vulnerability factors and emerging trends, and mapping of vulnerable groups and hotspot areas for human trafficking conducted
- Interventions developed and implemented based on identified vulnerabilities

Behaviour change communications adopted in prevention for interventions for different target groups

- Regional behaviour change strategy tailored to different target groups developed, operationalised and reviewed

Migrant workers recruitment systems strengthened to protect those vulnerable to trafficking in persons

- Guidelines on migrant recruitment policies including their monitoring operationalized
- Formalized mechanisms for workers to report exploitation and seek assistance including monitoring procedures operationalized
- Workplaces employing migrant workers vulnerable to human trafficking are monitored and inspected by appropriately trained officials, with cases identified and addressed

Community advocacy groups established and active in key vulnerable source and destination areas, and networked where required

- Operations and monitoring of community advocacy groups in anti-human trafficking interventions strengthened

Media actors are engaged to reveal and report accurately on human trafficking cases and related news in accordance with domestic law including protection of privacy of victims and ethical reporting principles

- Information-sharing on human trafficking cases with media actors for their reporting enhanced
- Media actors are supported to reveal human trafficking cases and to promote awareness

Private sector actors are actively engaged to prevent human trafficking

- Awareness amongst private sector actors on human trafficking enhanced
- Tools and mechanisms for monitoring of employment conditions in line with guidelines operationalized and reviewed, in cooperation with associations and businesses in sectors affected by human trafficking
Internal standardised reporting based on an established M&E Framework
• Standardized SPAIV reporting framework developed and implemented

Relevant stakeholders engaged in implementation of SPA IV
• All sectors of society engaged in the implementation of SPA IV

Structures for regional reporting, consultation and coordination
• Regional Taskforce meetings (twice a year)
• Senior Officials Meeting (annual)
• Inter-Ministerial Meeting (once every three years)

Partnerships and engagement
• ASEAN
• COMMIT Youth Forum
• Civil Society Platform

Counter-human trafficking
Counter-human trafficking

TIP law enforcement data from East Asia and the Pacific

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Prosecutions</th>
<th>Convictions</th>
<th>Victims Identified</th>
<th>New or amended legislation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>357 (113)</td>
<td>256 (72)</td>
<td>5,238</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>427 (53)</td>
<td>177 (9)</td>
<td>2,597</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2,127 (55)</td>
<td>978 (55)</td>
<td>8,454 (3,140)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1,682 (115)</td>
<td>1,251 (103)</td>
<td>8,521 (1,804)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2,460 (188)</td>
<td>1,271 (39)</td>
<td>7,886 (1,077)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1,938 (88)</td>
<td>969 (16)</td>
<td>6,349 (1,084)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>3,281 (193)</td>
<td>1,730 (130)</td>
<td>13,990 (3,533)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Challenges to better responses

- Understanding of human trafficking is still limited and different between countries
- Cross border cooperation between law enforcement is very limited with few channels for information and intelligence sharing bilaterally and multilaterally
- Some good examples of cross-border cooperation in victim protection, but not systematic
- Significant barriers remain to effective data collection on TIP
- Justice for victims remains weak and fears outweigh incentives, limiting success in prosecutions or the effectiveness of reintegration
- Translating policy to implementation remains a gap in most countries
Migration and Trafficking

- Two different processes:
  - Migration - movement from one place to another
  - Trafficking - starts out as recruitment or movement, and ends with exploitation
- Labour dimension of trafficking

CSO Accountability Mechanisms in Place

- International level
  - CSO shadow report to the treaty bodies
  - CSO submit report to Special Procedures
- Regional
  - Strategic collaboration with different organizations
  - Policy review: gaps in policies as well as in implementation
  - Policy monitoring: score card/report index
CSO Accountability Mechanisms in Place

- Regional
  - Engagement with regional processes such as the ASEAN, SAARC, Colombo Process and Abu Dhabi Dialogue
  - ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ASEAN People’s Forum (ACSC/APF)

- National level
  - Advocacy
  - Engagement with parliamentarians: Submit report; Organize fact finding missions; Dialogue/consultation

Recommendations

- Institutionalization of CSO Participation
  - Encourage and support an enabling environment for CSOs
  - Develop inclusive cso processes and effective engagement with executive and parliamentary processes at country level
- Increase genuine collaboration between governments and CSOs
**Recommendations**

**Combatting Trafficking**
- Legal and policy framework: **Inclusive; non-discriminatory definition; Harmonization of policies**
- Implementation: **Stronger enforcement of the law; Increase prosecution of trafficking offenders**
- Engagement with regional and global processes
- Advocate ratification of relevant international instruments that prevent and combat trafficking and promote the human rights of every human being.

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**Thank You!**

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Step It Up: Dignity, Rights, Development - Marking 25 years of the UN Migrant Workers Convention: http://www.cmw25.org
What is Human Trafficking:

Human trafficking includes a motley of crimes and in its widest sense includes the exploitation of the prostitution of others, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery and the trade in human beings for the removal of organs. In short it is a crime that violates human rights and restricts human liberty.

Major Causes of Human Trafficking:

- Economic and social inequalities; and
- Political conflicts that have led to the movement of persons within each country and across the borders in South Asia;
- Globalization has encouraged free mobility of capital, technology, experts and sex tourism.
- Illiteracy, dependency, violence, social stigma, cultural stereotypes, gender disparity and endemic poverty, among other factors, place women and children in powerless, non-negotiable situations that have contributed to the emergence and breeding of the cavernous problem of sex trafficking in the entire region.
- Terrorism

International Conventions on Human Trafficking:

- UN Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (1949)
- SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in women and Children for Prostitution, 2002

Article 3 of the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2000):
“Trafficking in Persons’ shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring and receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”

According to the SAARC Convention : ‘trafficking; means moving, selling or buying women and children for prostitution within and outside a country for monetary or other considerations with or without the consent of the person subjected to trafficking.

Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery servitude or the removal of organs. The ‘consent’ of the victim of trafficking shall be
irrelevant where any of the means set forth above have been used. ‘Consent’ is irrelevant in case of children even if this does not involve any of the means mentioned.

Response:

To be effective, anti-trafficking strategies must target the three dimensions of human trafficking: supply, demand, and the systems and structures that allow it to happen. This means taking action in countries of origin, transit and destination. The interventions to combat trafficking can be clustered under 4Ps - Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Policy

**Prevention**: reduces the vulnerability of a person or community to becoming a victim of trafficking. To be effective, the factors that make a person or community vulnerable must be clearly identified. Tackling demand is another way to prevent trafficking - for example, educating consumers about how their lifestyle choices impact others.

**Protection**: begins when a victim is rescued and reunited with their family and continues when they are assisted to rebuild their lives. It may include keeping victims safe from threat, violence and abuse, counselling, help with income generation, education and vocational training.

**Prosecution**: ensures the victim receives full justice, including meaningful prosecution of the perpetrator. It requires vigorous law enforcement, fighting corruption, identifying and monitoring trafficking routes, and cross border coordination.

**Policy**: is the framework, including government and NGO guiding principles, plans and strategies, which support all of the anti-trafficking initiatives described above.

**Trafficking in South Asia - A Snapshot**

Human trafficking has emerged as a social dilemma in the South Asian region. The region as a whole has made certain efforts to combat human trafficking but lack of information and statistics on the number of people victimized and pattern of trafficking made it into a more complex issue.

Some estimates suggest 1 to 2 million women, men and children are trafficked worldwide, around 225,000 of them are from SAARC region. Other estimates show that over the last 30 years, trafficking for sexual exploitation alone has victimized some 30 million Asian women and children.

SAARC Convention on “Preventing and Combating the Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution” is seen as a milestone on the path to coordinate interventions against trafficking at the sub-regional level.

India

India is a source, destination, and transit country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking.

Main concerns:
• **Forced labour** of millions of its citizens constitutes India’s largest trafficking problem; men, women, and children.

• **Debt bondage** – trafficked individuals are forced to work in industries such as brick kilns, rice mills, agriculture, and embroidery factories. A common characteristic of bonded labour is the use of physical and sexual violence as coercive tools. Ninety per cent of trafficking in India is internal.

• Children are also subjected to forced labour as factory workers, domestic servants, beggars, agricultural workers, and to a lesser extent, in some areas of rural Uttar Pradesh as carpet weavers.

• **Servile marriages** leading to transactional sexual exploitation in Middleast

• **Establishments of sex trafficking** are moving from more traditional locations – such as brothels – to locations that are harder to find, and are also shifting from urban areas to rural areas, where there is less detection.

Economic sectors encouraging trafficking:

• Hybrid Cotton Seed Plots in Gujrat

• Embroidery factories in India nad Nepal

• Sumangali Scheme in Tamil Nadu (in which employers pay young women a lump sum to be used for a dowry at the end of a three-year term)

• Manpower (job placement agencies lure adults and children for forced labour or sex trafficking under false promises of employment)

Areas beyond States absolute control:

• Most rebellion known as Naxalites group recruiting children

• Sex trafficking moving from more traditional locations which are harder to detect

Pakistan

Major concerns:

• **Labour Trafficking** (Many Pakistani women and men migrate voluntarily to the Gulf States, Iran, Turkey, South Africa, Uganda, Greece, and other European countries for low-skilled employment such as domestic work, driving, or construction work; once abroad, some become victims of labour trafficking.)

• **Involuntary servitude or Debt Bondage** (False job offers and high recruitment fees charged by illegal labour agents or sub-agents of licensed Pakistani overseas employment promoters increase Pakistani labourers’ vulnerabilities)

• **Prostitution** (Employers abroad use practices including restrictions on movement, non-payment of wages, threats, and physical or sexual abuse. Moreover, traffickers use violence, psychological coercion, and isolation, often seizing travel and identification documents as a means to coerce Pakistani women and girls into prostitution)

• **Bonded Labour** (Traffickers or recruiters exploit an initial debt assumed by a worker as part of the terms of employment)

Economic sectors encouraging trafficking:

• Brick-kilns

• Agriculture
• Mining
• Carpet making
• Glass bangle
• Fishery/ Fishing industries

Areas beyond States absolute control:

• Militant groups - kidnap children or coerce parents with fraudulent promises or threats into giving away children as young as nine to spy, fight, or die as suicide bombers in Pakistan and Afghanistan

Nepal

Cases of human trafficking occur mainly in three areas: cross border trafficking beyond India; cross border trafficking to India and internal trafficking.

Major Concerns:
• Trafficking (mainly for entertainment enterprises)
• Domestic Servitude (Boys also are exploited in domestic servitude and trafficking of Nepalese minor girls to Gulf Countries and to Khasa, Tibet has been on rise.)
• Human Trade (Nepali migrants are smuggled to developed countries)
• Sex Trafficking
• Forced Labour (Nepali women and girls are subjected to sex trafficking in Nepal, India, and the Middle East, and also are subjected to forced labour in Nepal and India as domestic servants, beggars, factory workers, mine workers, and in the adult entertainment industry)
• Bonded Labour

Economic Sectors Encouraging trafficking:
• Agriculture
• Brick Kilns
• Stone breaking industry
• Manpower

Areas within State control:
• Disciplining Law enforcement agencies (Police are paid by brothel owners)

Afghanistan

Major Concerns:
• Forced Labour (young boys and girls – opium farming)
• Domestic Servitude
• Commercial Sexual Exploitation
• Transnational Drug Smuggling (within Afghanistan and in Pakistan, Iran, and Saudi Arabia)
• Human Trade (Some families knowingly sell their children for forced prostitution, including for bachabaazi – where wealthy men use groups of young boys for social and sexual entertainment)
• Prostitution
Economic Sectors encouraging trafficking:

- Opium Farming/ Drug Trade (black economy)
- Manpower

Areas beyond States absolute control:

- Insurgent groups forcibly use children between 12 to 16 years old as suicide bombers.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh is primarily affected by modern slavery for sexual exploitation, forced labour and bonded labour, both within its borders and overseas.

Major concerns:

- **Bonded Labour and Forced Labour** (It is estimated that in the past 30 years, more than one million Bangladeshis have been enslaved in the Gulf countries)
- **Sexual Exploitation** (Bangladeshi children and adults are trafficked internally for commercial sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, and forced and bonded labour, including forced begging)

Economic Sectors encouraging trafficking:

- **Manpower** (Unscrupulous Recruitment agencies are permitted legally to charge workers recruitment fees that are the equivalent of a year’s salary, but these recruiting agencies often charge additional amounts in contravention of government regulations. These exorbitant fees place migrant workers in a condition of debt bondage, in which they are compelled to work out of fear of otherwise incurring serious financial harm. Many Bangladeshi migrant labourers are victims of recruitment fraud, including additional and illegal exorbitant recruitment fees often accompanied by fraudulent representation of terms of employment.)
- **Tobacco cultivation**
- **Other small/ cottage industries**

Sri Lanka

Major Concerns:

- **Forced Labour** (migrant workers face conditions of forced labour including restrictions on movement, withholding of passports, threats, physical or sexual abuse, and threats of detention and deportation for immigration violations)
- **Male Prostitution** (Boys are more likely than girls to be forced into prostitution in coastal areas for domestic child sex tourism)

Economic Sectors encouraging trafficking:

- **Manpower**
- **Sex Tourism**

Initiatives and Actions by SAARC Nations

- Concerted efforts have also been undertaken at the sub-regional level to combat human trafficking in South Asia. During the 11th SAARC (South Asian Association for
Regional Co-operation) Summit, which was held in January 2002 in Kathmandu, the seven SAARC member States (Nepal, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and the Maldives) signed the SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating the Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution.

- The scope of this Convention is to promote co-operation amongst member States to effectively deal with various aspects of prevention, interdiction and suppression of trafficking in women and children; repatriation and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking, and preventing the use of women and children in international prostitution networks, particularly where the SAARC member countries are the countries of origin, transit and destination.

- Five Points for further actions as urgent imperatives decided include:
  - Conduct better research into the demand that underpins sexual abuse and exploitation of children, including the abuse that results from home grown demand.
  - Reinforce protection measures through the adoption of National Action Plans covering sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking.
  - Develop compatible databases of abused, exploited and trafficked children with information on age, gender and nationality that would allow better identification of

Some Country Specific Responses:

Nepal’s Response and Initiatives on Human Trafficking

- The HTTCA also prohibits other offenses that do not constitute human trafficking, such as people smuggling and purchasing commercial sex.
- The Bonded Labour (Prohibition) Act (2002) prohibits bonded labour but has no penalties.
- In August 2011, the National Committee for Controlling Human Trafficking established a secretariat.

Major Challenges:

- The lack of political stability and resources has hampered translating commitments into actions.

Bangladesh’s Response and Initiatives on Human Trafficking

- The Government of Bangladesh made clear anti-trafficking law enforcement progress by passing a comprehensive counter-trafficking law and increasing the number of investigations and prosecutions.
- In February 2012 the parliament passed the ordinance as law: the Human Trafficking Deterrence and Suppression Act (Trafficking in Persons Report -Bangladesh -2012). This Act generally prohibits and punishes all forms of human trafficking, though it does not flatly prohibit the fraudulent recruitment of labour migrants; rather, the Act requires the recruiter to have known that the recruited workers would be subject to forced labour.
In January 2012, the Ministry of Home Affairs promulgated a new National Plan of Action for Combating Human Trafficking for 2012-2014, which includes plans to implement the new law.

The Ministries of Social Welfare, Women and Children Affairs, and Primary and Mass Education, continued to raise awareness on the trafficking of women and children. The Ministry of Expatriate Welfare’s Vigilance Task Force continued its work to improve the oversight of Bangladesh’s labour recruiting process ahead of a future.

There are a number of NGO’s in Bangladesh working to combat human trafficking. Among them are: Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA), Ain o Salish Kendro of Dhaka, UNICEF, and International Organization for Migration (IOM). Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) provides information for female victims of violence, contact with law enforcement organizations, phone counselling through their various hotline numbers.

Major Challenges and key gaps in the legal framework:

- Lack of comprehensive definition of trafficking either as a common minimum platform for States to work on with each other, or even for punishing all forms of trafficking within the countries. The Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2000, does not give a comprehensive definition and is restricted to a few forms of trafficking;
- Gender sensitivity is missing even though there are laws for women. This does not translate into a sensitive law, at least not in its working, as commercial sex workers also get booked under trafficking law.

Gaps in Prosecution:

- There is no uniform definition of who is a child/minor in terms of age. It varies in different statues. The employment of women and Young Persons and Children Act, 1956, places a child as a person below eighteen, while the women and children repression prevention act 2000, defines a child as a person below sixteen years of age;
- Trafficking is not often seen as an organised crime, and provisions relevant to organised crime are not made use of in trafficking cases although the Bangladesh Penal Code, 1860, does have provision relating to common intention to commit an offence, criminal conspiracy and abetment.
- Cooperation mechanisms are ad hoc or non-existent as far as cross border trafficking is concerned. Most relevant to – legal assistance, providing information, transfer sentenced persons, joint investigations;
- Prosecutions overall are not satisfactory. There are no separate courts dealing with issues of this nature
- Absence of comprehensive definition of trafficking leaves space for dishonest police personnel to convert a trafficking case into illegal migration, illegal border crossing, human smuggling etc.
- Industry/ Sector specific laws/provisions missing to restrain exploitation.

Gaps in Protection

- No adequate distinction drawn between the trafficked and the victim’s e.g in some cases of prostitution or in the case of unsafe migration without documents.
- There is no positive duty cast upon states to provide sufficient shelters or for rehabilitation or rescue victims of trafficking;
Civil remedies in tort law are not used against employers (as the same has not been developed and is in a state of perennial slumber) who violate labour standards or force employment;

Financial support for existing programs is often insufficient;

A conducive atmosphere to make it safe for victims to testify is not created. No witness protection program.

The focus is on women and children, with inadequate protection for men;

The focus is also on trafficking for sexual exploitation and punishments for trafficking for labour do not carry the same weight;

Gaps in Prevention:

- Trainings of personnel at different levels are done sporadically, and materials are not revised systematically;
- There are insufficient awareness campaigns and community initiatives, leading to trafficking or unsafe migration which increase vulnerability to trafficking;
- Licensing of recruitment agencies and their monitoring is not satisfactory. Illegal immigration is often resorted to.
- Systems like referral and identification of support staff and service providers or authorities at different levels is absent
- Absence of skilled and honest police officers having motivation and adequate training in both pro-active and reactive investigation to combat organised crime like trafficking.

India’s Response and Initiatives on Human Trafficking

- The Constitution of India states that the Right against exploitation is a fundamental right. Under Article 23, traffic in human beings and “beggar” (bonded labour), and other forms of forced labour are prohibited.
- The Immoral Traffic (prevention) Act of 1956 (ITPA), supplemented by the Indian Penal code (IPC) prohibits trafficking human beings, including children and lays down severe penalties.
- Under Section 13 (4) of IPTA it was recommended that the Central Government appoint a number of police officers as trafficking police officers and they shall discharge such functions and exercise powers in the entire country.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) of the Government of India (Centre-State division), National Commission for Women (NCW), National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the National Aids control Organisation (NACO) are some of the government bodies engaged in activities to combat trafficking in addition to over 80 NGOs.
- The Ministry of Women and Child has notified the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 to strengthen the legal provisions for the protection of children from sexual abuse and exploitation. For the first time, a special law has been passed to address the issue of sexual offences against children. Sexual offences are currently covered under different sections of IPC.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) continued to establish Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs), which were responsible for combining law enforcement and rehabilitation efforts.
- The Central Bureau of Investigation launched an anti-trafficking unit in 2011 and gave investigation authority under trafficking-related laws to its entire police officers
The Central Bureau of Investigation established a dedicated federal anti-trafficking unit in January 2012 whose police officers have nationwide investigative authority. Challenges remain regarding overall law enforcement efforts against bonded labour and the alleged complicity of public officials in human trafficking. India prohibits most forms of forced labour through the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act (BLSA), the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, and the Juvenile Justice Act. Some Indian diplomatic missions in the Middle East provided services, including temporary shelters, medical care, legal assistance, and 24-hour hotlines, to Indian migrant labourers, some of whom were victims of trafficking.

Major Challenges and key gaps in the legal framework:
- Lack of comprehensive definition of trafficking either as a common minimum platform for the states to work on with each other, or even for punishing all forms of trafficking within the countries. While SAARC definition is there, it is limited to trafficking for sexual exploitation and only covers women and children.
- Gender sensitivity is missing.

Gaps in prosecution:
- There is no uniform definition of who is a child/ minor in terms of age. It varies in different statues.
- Trafficking is not often seen as an organised crime.
- Cooperation mechanisms are ad hoc and or non-existent viz – legal assistance, providing information, transfer of sentences persons, joint investigations.
- Prosecutions overall are not satisfactory.

Gaps in Protection:
- There is sometimes no adequate distinction made between the trafficker and victims.
- There is no positive duty cast upon states to provide sufficient shelters or for rehabilitation or rescue although enabling provisions exist in a number of legislations such as ITPA and the juvenile justice Act 2000.
- Civil remedies in tort are not used against employers who violate labor standards or force employment though remedies available in the criminal procedure code and established case law and though there are a number of initiatives now being taken on bonded labour.
- Financial support for existing programs is often insufficient.
- A conducive atmosphere to make it safe for victims to testify is not created. No witness protection program.
- Proceedings are not often gender sensitive and women victims is often unaware of proceedings in her own case.

Gaps in prevention:
- Trainings of government personnel as well as community awareness are done sporadically and materials are not revised systematically.
- Awareness programmes among the general public have to be strengthened along with widely publicized helpline numbers. Community initiatives especially in vulnerable areas must be stepped up with the cooperation of NGOs.
- Licensing of recruitment agencies is currently not done, though there is a need to do so.
• Law reform, policy and prevention measures are slow to respond to newer forms of trafficking.
• There is often no set guidelines for safe migration; pushback is sometimes resorted to in cases of women and others from Bangladesh

Pakistan Government Response and Initiatives

• Several sections in the Pakistan Penal Code, as well as provincial laws, criminalize forms of human trafficking such as slavery, selling a child for prostitution, and unlawful compulsory labour, prescribing punishments for these offenses that range from fines to life imprisonment.
• Article 11 of the Pakistan Constitution prohibits slavery, forced labour and trafficking in human beings.
• Section 2 of the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance, 2002 criminalises human trafficking, which is defined as “obtaining, securing, selling, purchasing, recruiting, detaining, harbouring or receiving a person, notwithstanding his implicit or explicit consent, by the use of coercion, kidnapping, abduction, or by giving or receiving any payment or benefit, or sharing or receiving a share for such person’s subsequent transportation out of or into Pakistan by any means whatsoever for any of the purposes mentioned in section 3.”
• The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act (BLSA) prohibits bonded labour, with prescribed penalties ranging from two to five years’ imprisonment, a fine, or both. Pakistani officials have yet to record a single conviction under this law.

Sri Lanka Government Response and Initiatives

• Human trafficking and child trafficking are prohibited under Ordinance No. 2 of the Penal Code and the Penal Code
• The 2005 amendment of the Penal Code has largely enhanced children’s legal protection from trafficking, exploitation and abuse, and includes increased protection from Internet-based sexual abuse.
• Protection provided by: the Constitution; the National Child Protection Authority Act 1998; the Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act (No. 47) 1956; the Children and Young Persons Ordinance; the Brothels Ordinance; the Vagrants Ordinance; the Houses of Detention Ordinance No. 26 of 1955; and the Educational Ordinance. (Ibid: 2013) The Brothel Ordinance criminalizes keeping, managing, acting and assisting in the management of a brothel. The Vagrants Ordinance’s provision on causing or encouraging a girl to be seduced or prostituted applies only to girls under age 16, leaving all boys and all girls between 16 and 18 years of age vulnerable to prostitution.
• The National Child Protection Authority and Criminal Investigation Department (CID) investigated 44 reported cases of trafficking in 2011, and referred nine of these cases to the Attorney General’s office for advice.
• The government undertook law enforcement training. In August 2011, the Ministry of Justice and the Judges’ Training Institute trained 80 judges, in collaboration with the ILO, on issues such as the application of international standards within domestic trafficking legislation, and the trauma for trafficking victims during the judicial process.
• In December 2011, the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE) organized a workshop for 80 district-level government officials on identifying victims and sending case information to relevant law enforcement departments.
The Sri Lankan government made progress in its efforts to prevent trafficking. The government worked on several awareness-raising initiatives with the ILO. In one initiative, the government, in partnership with the ILO, developed a handbook for migrants bound for Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, including information on the relevant labour laws, descriptions of forced labour and trafficking, and contact information.

Afghanistan Government Response and Initiatives

The Government of Afghanistan made some progress on victim protection; despite a late-issued formal decree on prohibiting punishment of victims, penalization of victims was widespread and victim protection inadequate.

- Afghanistan’s 2008 Law Countering Abduction and Human Trafficking/Smuggling, along with Article 516 of the penal code, prohibit many, but not all, forms of human trafficking. For example, the law does not cover sex trafficking of a child if coercion was not involved. Government officials, including law enforcement and judicial officials, continued to have a limited understanding of human trafficking.
- The 2009 Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW) law and other provisions of the penal code contain penalties for most forms of trafficking.
- Ministry of Interior (MOI) has an anti-trafficking in persons unit with approximately 20 officers, but they did not appear to be dedicated full-time to this unit and there was frequent turnover in their leadership.
- The government increased its efforts to raise awareness on trafficking. The Ministry of Education reported that it asked all schools to spend the first five minutes of the school day on raising awareness about human trafficking/smuggling; there is no information confirming that this directive has been implemented.
Labour migration governance and the prevention of human trafficking
Regional Parliamentarians Conference on Combatting Human Trafficking
21 March 2017, Bangkok Thailand
Anna Olsen
Technical Specialist
TRIANGLE in ASEAN

Labour migration governance and human trafficking – the links

Inherent tension between the approaches on combatting human trafficking through a criminal justice vs ‘labour approach’

The labour approach considers migration – and migrant workers - as a positive force for regional, national and local development and women’s economic empowerment in both countries of origin and destination

Human trafficking exists almost solely in the framework of criminal law and denies any agency of the victim

But, there is a nexus which is what we at the ILO would consider the labour approach to combatting human trafficking...
Overview

Why is trafficking a labour market issue in East and South-East Asia? How do immigration systems create vulnerabilities?

International legal standards on forced labour and trafficking in persons.
  What is forced labour? What is trafficking in persons?
  State obligations

What added value do the new ILO Protocol and Recommendation on forced labour (‘the labour approach’) bring to anti-trafficking work?
  - Prevention
  - Protection
  - Remedies, including compensation

Changing the conversation...

Fair recruitment, safe migration and ensuring women’s mobility = prevention of human trafficking?

Reducing exploitative working conditions and ensuring decent work = prevention of human trafficking?

Enforcement of labour rights, health and safety through inspections = prosecution of human trafficking, forced labour and related crimes?
**Why is human trafficking – a labour market issue in ASEAN?**

- Labour migration is an established feature in ASEAN labour markets.
- The number of international migrants has tripled from 3.2m in 1990 to 9.5m in 2013. Around two thirds are intra-ASEAN migrants. A little under half are women.
- A third of the work-force in Malaysia and Singapore are migrants.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>MWs</th>
<th>From ASEAN %</th>
<th>Women %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brunei 2014:</td>
<td>52,000</td>
<td>79.5</td>
<td>35.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia 2015:</td>
<td>2.1 m</td>
<td>56.4 (’13)</td>
<td>28.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand 2015:</td>
<td>1.4 m</td>
<td>89.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Globally, one in every 13 wage-earning women is a domestic worker
About 73.4 per cent (or around 8.5 million) of all migrant domestic workers are women
Southeast Asia and the Pacific host 24.0 per cent of the global number of women migrant domestic workers

---

**Labour migration is an established feature in ASEAN labour markets**

International migrants have tripled from 1990 - 3.2m to 2013 - 9.5m

Around 2/3 are intra-ASEAN migrants. A little under half are women.
1/3 of workforce in Malaysia and Singapore are migrant workers.
1/10 of the workforce in Thailand are migrant workers.
ILO global estimate of forced labour (2012)

What barriers to women’s mobility exist?

Cambodia
- Age requirement of 21 years for domestic work only (18 for other sectors)
- Ban on first-time migration for domestic work to Malaysia (since 2011)
- Parental permission required (regardless of age) for domestic workers in Malaysia to extend contracts or renew passports (since 2012)

Indonesia
- Ban on migration for domestic work to the Middle East (since 2015)
- Planned cessation of domestic worker outward migration by 2017

Lao PDR
- Migration not allowed for work that is dangerous or “contrary to Lao customs and traditions”

Myanmar
- Generalized ban on migration for domestic work to any country (since 2014)
- Recruiters must place women in worksites where they will work with at least five women

Philippines
- Age requirement of 23 years for domestic work only (18 for other sectors) (since 2011)

Viet Nam
- Migrant workers not permitted to work as dancers, singers, or masseuses in restaurants, hotels or entertainment entities (since 2007)
How do women work around barriers to their mobility?

So can we talk about the prevention of human trafficking without talking about these systemic factors?

Ways that governments react to these risk factors for trafficking forced labour/immigration challenges

Protectionist (discriminatory) policies vs. improvement of labour standards

Legalistic/criminal approaches vs. maintenance of basic labour standards

Why?
The continuum of exploitation

Bad working conditions / Labour law violations

Civil or administrative sanctions (or criminal sanctions)

Forced labour/human trafficking crime

Criminal sanctions under penal law

The ‘labour approach’ believes that by addressing bad working conditions, labour law violations and so on, we will better be able to identify cases of trafficking. We need to ensure better integration of labour and criminal justice to capture the continuum of exploitation – this means addressing migrant workers as workers and not limiting our thinking around victims of trafficking/vulnerable women.

International legal standards – basic obligations

Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) prohibits the use of forced or compulsory labour in all its forms.

Obligations of member States which ratify Convention No. 29 include:

- Suppression of the use of forced or compulsory labour in all its forms within the shortest possible period (Article 1(1)).
- Making illegal exaction of forced or compulsory labour punishable as a penal offence (Article 25).
- Ensuring that the penalties imposed by law are really adequate and strictly enforced (Article 25).

Obligations of member States which ratify the Protocol to Convention No. 29

Provide protection and access to appropriate and effective remedies, such as compensation, to victims.

The measures shall include specific action against trafficking in persons for the purposes of forced labour (Article 1(3)).

Each member shall develop a national policy and plan of action for the effective and sustained suppression of forced labour, which shall involve systematic action (Article 1(2)).

Shall be developed in consultation with employers’ and workers’ organizations and, as appropriate, implemented in coordination with them.
What’s new in the Protocol and Recommendation?
They approach forced labour as a labour market issue, and not only as a criminal justice issue.

They address structural/systemic factors that make workers vulnerable to forced labour, instead of only focusing on identification of individual cases and prosecution of perpetrators.

They promote broad partnerships involving labour market institutions, employers’ and workers’ organizations, and other groups.

They recognize the responsibility of private sector in preventing and responding to risks of forced labour.

They provide specific protection to migrant workers.

They establish an explicit linkage between concepts of forced labour and human trafficking.

So what?
If we accept that trafficking for forced labour (trafficking of migrant workers) is a labour market issue that is best addressed with the ‘labour approach’ what does this mean?

- Using the Forced Labour protocol or forced labour laws where trafficking is challenging for labour enforcement
- Using labour inspections and other labour methods to ensure standards of working conditions are upheld
- Creating real value in work performed in our communities by migrant workers – recognizing their work as work

This means creating regular channels for migration, ensuring minimum wage and social protection is available to migrant workers and generally that domestic workers enjoy protection that all other workers gain through the relevant labour laws

- So why is this so difficult? Attitudes...
THANK YOU

Anna Olsen
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ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

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Communities as a driving force in eliminating human trafficking: exploring the role of Community Based Child Protection Mechanisms

Raša Sekulović
Regional Head of Child Protection
Plan International Asia Regional Office

Regional Parliamentarians’ Conference on Combatting Human Trafficking
21-22 March 2017
Bangkok, Thailand

In this presentation:

• About Plan International
• Why involving communities in child protection?
• Defining Community Based Child Protection Mechanisms (CBCPMs)
• Key aspects of CBCPMs
• Common roles and functions of CBCPMs
• Key contributions by CBCPMs
• Working together for child protection to create long-term impact
• Entry points for advocacy and influencing policy
About Plan International

Founded in 1937, Plan International is a development and humanitarian organisation that advances children’s rights and equality for girls.

We strive for a just world, working together with children, young people, our supporters and partners. In 2015, we were active in 71 countries and worked in 85,280 communities across Africa, the Americas and Asia.

- no religious affiliations
- no political affiliations
- no governmental affiliations

What do we do in Asia?

In Asia, Plan International works at the grassroots level to implement child-centred programmes in 14 countries.
WHY INVOLVING COMMUNITIES?

• Children live, learn and play in communities - these are the people they are closest to and with whom they have the most contact. Safe children live in safe communities!

• Communities may be more accessible than more formalised services - which may not be accessible to children especially if they live in remote areas or are on the move/nomadic...

• Communities often understand best the problems that children face within their community and how to help solve these in ways which are appropriate for children and their families...at times, perpetrators live side by side in the same communities!

• Parents have a responsibility to protect children and communities can help support parents, and other carers/guardians, in fulfilling that important role...

Defining Community based Child Protection Mechanisms (CBCPMs)

• Working definition: a network or group of individuals at community level who work in a coordinated manner towards protection of children from all forms of violence, in all settings

• Such mechanisms can be indigenous or externally initiated and supported. They may be more formal or informal in their structure and functioning. CBCPMs are usually linked and contribute to the child protection systems to different degrees
Key aspects of CBCPMs...

...roles and responsibilities

Key CBCPM aspects...

• Focus on **prevention** through **awareness raising** and **early intervention** but they can also play a key role in identifying and **referring** children who have been/are being exploited, abused and mistreated... especially in remote and rural areas, or where there are few services and limited reach of formal services

• **Variety of forms** – but based on community members involvement: need to be **relevant and appropriate for the context** in which they work. Examples include community protection committees (CPCs) or networks of individuals or groups that work together etc. including **child trafficking surveillance groups**...

• **Volunteers** as a core driving force

• Can be **indigenous/organic** or initiated by **external** actors, regulated by the law or reflecting community self-mobilisation efforts
Common roles and expectations of CBCPMs…

• Depending on context, the role of the CBCPMs can vary widely

• In emergencies, which often trigger incidence of trafficking, there may be an expectation that CPCPMs take responsibility for intervening and managing cases of abuse

• This should be limited, and only introduced with caution as it is unlikely that without significant ongoing support a CBCPM will have the necessary skills to be able to offer such intensive work required – and the effect could be that children are left unprotected

From awareness raising to reintegration and rehabilitation

• Building the awareness of communities both in relation to different forms of violence against children, including child trafficking, and regarding the roles and responsibilities of community members in protecting children. This includes working with children.

• Activities such as parenting education have proved effective in terms of both raising awareness within communities, and in reducing the incidents of exploitation, mistreatment and abuse.

• To this extent they can also be considered as early detection and intervention initiatives, because they seek to reduce risk to children by early recognition of risk from child trafficking.

Other activities include a range of issues, including where to report and seek additional support and how to ensure community based rehabilitation and reintegration.
Who works in child protection?

- Exploring both regular/traditional partners, but also those less obvious ones;

- **Formal** (social services/child welfare) and **informal** services and structures (traditional and religious leaders, village committees);

- **Variety and scope** of services…

- Understanding **legal and policy** frameworks: necessity to operate within the framework of law + entry point for advocacy

- **Implications** for reporting, investigating and overall processing of alleged child trafficking cases

---

DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERS IN PROTECTING CHILDREN…
Fostering positive relationships and linkages within child protection system

• Working together – better outcomes for children!
• Inclusiveness and common vision – preventing working in isolation...
• Regular coordination meetings and joint initiatives;
• Linkages with child protection system: based on the nature and stage of developing the system
• Establishing referral mechanisms and pathways, protocols for engagement etc.

Key recommendations for influencing policy

• Through their work with children and their families, CBCPMs are uniquely placed to provide information and insights and to create an upwards force that can drive change and create demand for locally accessible services

• CBCPMs are low cost and rely on community mobilisation, but they cannot function in isolation and need to be clearly connected with the CP systems and related services

• It is essential to formalise CBCPMs and secure budgetary allocations and other types of support, so to ensure vital linkages with national Child Protection systems
THANK YOU!
Child protection from violence, exploitation and abuse:

*The cost of inaction*

Bangkok
21 March 2017

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Understanding the children’s vulnerability to trafficking

We cannot reduce the number of children exposed to trafficking without also engaging with the problems at home or in school that could explain their situation.

“Traffickers would encounter fewer obstacles in territories where institutions do not sufficiently protect children, convict traffickers, provide proper education or support communities in keeping children safe”.
*(UNODC Global report on trafficking in persons, 2016)*
A systems approach to child protection

Framework for prevention and response

Legal and Policy Framework

Health

Education

Social Welfare System

Justice System

Social behavior change system

Tertiary/response

Secondary/targeted

Primary/Universal

Children at immediate risk of significant harm:
• Child protection services
• Crisis centers
• Out-of-home care
• Police/justice...

Early intervention for at-risk groups:
• Programmes for troubled youth;
• Substance abuse treatment
• Intensive parenting support for children with special needs
• Free day care, conditional cash transfers, migrant family outreach...

Programmes for all families with children
• Universal, health, education, ECD;
• Positive parenting promotion
• Parental leave policies
Prevalence of past year violence (2-17 years)

Severe physical violence, emotional violence, sexual violence, bullying, or witnessing domestic violence

64% of all children based on quality data from 96 countries.

Depression/anxiety
Self-harm
Suicide ideation/attempts
Antisocial/disruptive behavior
Aggression
Substance misuse/early smoking
Eating disorders
Violence perpetration
Violence victimization

Mental health
Physical health
Intimate partner violence
Substance misuse/early smoking
Risky sexual behavior

...and has lifelong consequences

E.g. 25% of mental disorders in East Asia & Pacific are attributable to childhood experience of emotional abuse*

E.g. In India, witnessing domestic violence in childhood more than doubles the risk that men will go on to perpetuate it themselves**

Sources: Fry et al., 2012; *Fang et al., 2015; **IMAGES Database
Why should Governments invest in protecting children from violence, exploitation and abuse?

1. Reduce expenditure in crisis response services
2. Impact positively on public health
3. Improve educational outcomes
4. Reduce intergenerational violence, adult criminality and juvenile offending
The SDGs: a comprehensive violence prevention agenda

Risk factors in socio-ecological framework

**Individual:** Age, health, disability of child, education level, mental health, substance abuse, unwanted/teen pregnancy of caregiver

**Relationship:** Domestic violence, large family size, family recomposition, harsh discipline...

**Community:** High levels of crime, social and gender norms, cultural practices...

**Societal/Structural:** Social and economic policies that increase poverty, gender inequality, socio-political histories of violence..

SDG Targets that address risk factors

SDG Target 16.2

End abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against and torture of children

How can parliamentarians help?

Five key actions to end violence against children
Five key actions: #1

Establish high-level oversight of a Whole-of-Government national agenda

Source: WHO, 2016

Five key actions: #2

Strengthen and improve national legislation

"Report card" for ASEAN member States

Largely compliant

Partially compliant

Significant gaps

Law governing:
- Child abuse
- Domestic violence
- Harmful traditional practices
- Violence in schools
- Physical violence in the community
- Age of consent and statutory rape
- Sexual offences
- Child prostitution
- Child sex tourism
- Child pornography
- Child trafficking
- Child abduction
- Children in conflict with the law
- Worst forms of child labour
- Minimum working age & light work

Brunei  Cambodia  Vietnam  Laos/PDR  Indonesia  Myanmar  Philippines  Singapore  Thailand  Vietnam

Largely compliant

Partially compliant

Significant gaps

Report card

- Not enough information/unclear
**Five key actions: #3**

**Monitor progress through measurement of indicators for SDG 16.2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Summary Description</th>
<th>Reporting status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16.2.1 Violent discipline by caregivers</td>
<td>Currently measured in 72 countries globally; 10 in Asia-Pacific (AFG, BGD, FJI, KIR, LAO, MGL, NPL, SOL, VAN, VNM)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.data.unicef.org">www.data.unicef.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.2.2 Child victims of human trafficking</td>
<td>Currently measured in 10 countries in Asia-Pacific (BRN, FJI, IDN, MYS, MGL, MMR, NPL, PHI, THA, VNM)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.unodc.org/glotip.html">www.unodc.org/glotip.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.2.3 Male and female experience of sexual violence prior to age 18</td>
<td>Currently measured in 43 countries globally; only 4 include boys. 4 in Asia-Pacific, none include boys (CAM, IND, PHI, TSL)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.data.unicef.org">www.data.unicef.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Five key actions: #4**

**Implement a dedicated national research agenda**

15 governments are now using “Violence against Children Surveys” to mobilize national action, including six in the region (BTN, CAM, CHI, IDN, LAO, PHI)

---

What are the risk and protective factors associated with violence?

How many affected children have been identified by service providers?

What is the prevalence of violence?
Five key actions: #5

Build on regional platforms for South-South cooperation

South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children

Plan of Action to Eliminate violence against children

Pacific Islands Conference on ending violence against children

Stephen Blight
United Nations Children’s Fund
East Asia and Pacific Regional Office
Bangkok, Thailand

www.unicef.org

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Good Practices in Repatriation: Technology Based Solutions

Regional Parliamentarians’ Conference on Combating Human Trafficking
Bangkok, Thailand

Presented by Sankalita Shome programs@dnet.org.bd 22 March 2017

What is dnet?

It’s a not-for-profit Social Enterprise that designs innovative services for women, children & youth in rural and urban settings.

and

to create

for institutions

enhance capacity and productivity

social impact

In
Create technology based solutions and collaboration to bring all anti-trafficking actors and players together for effective responses and effective coordination of efforts throughout the continuum of trafficking.

Spearheaded by Plan International in collaboration with SAIEVAC and Dnet, and supported by National Postcode Lotterij in Netherlands.

Dnet plays regional responsibility for technology based system research and system integration for the MCA initiative.

Redefine technology

Universal
Economical
Innovative
Simple
Flow diagram of Cross Border Trafficking

Interventions in Protection and Prevention
Repatriation from West Bengal to Bangladesh

Trafficking Solutions Blueprint
Document outlining proposed technology solutions in the anti-trafficking domain. Consisting of Diagrams, Approaches, Strategies, Dependencies and Road map.
Interventions Rationalized Under 03 Areas

Protection and Prevention in Communities and during Transit

Rehabilitation and Reintegration

Repatriation to Home Country

Context: RIMS

RIMS
Repatriation Information Management System

One of the solutions conceptualized and visualized in the Technology Blueprint.

Developed and piloted in Bangladesh, India and Nepal.

Many other technological solutions, applicable for other components in the anti-trafficking continuum were also conceptualized and visualized in the Technology Blueprint through a systematic research.
Context: RIMS

RIMS
Repatriation Information Management System

Benefits

Unique identification of cases
Generates a unique ID for each case. Easily searchable and identification of cases for actions.

Uniformity in process
Process, forms and templates are unified, which meets the need of all actors.

Real time tracking of cases and notifications
Dashboard, notification, date and time of each action is available. Can monitor progress and bottleneck to take actions/follow-up.

Single port of information and documents
Journey of the cases and related documents all in one place. Easy to continue the care from one actor to another.

Coordination
Builds cross country network. Facilitates cross border coordination for repatriation management and reduces duplication of efforts.
The Path Ahead- Replication and Contextualization of RIMS

Dnet as the technical advisor to SAIEVAC

Replicating RIMS in other regions, having a trafficking problem. Technology can be adapted and adopted and contextualized

RIMS can be adapted to work in areas of labor movement and internal migration

The Path Ahead-RIMS as the Springboard to Create Synergies with Existing Systems

RIMS can be linked and made to ‘talk’ to internal systems/technology interventions that exist

Facilitating collaboration and co-ordination among programs/interventions/initiatives using technology
Collaboration – Across Borders and Systems

Missing or found Child Helplines

Anyone can report

Missing database

Data communication between systems

Hand over to family (local)

Re-integration to F/C (local)

Transfer to shelter home

All of the solutions can function as cross border solution

Thank you
NACG
THE NATIONAL ACTION AND COORDINATION GROUPS
TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

THE REGIONAL PARLIAMENTARIANS’ CONFERENCE
FOR COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING
BANGKOK 21-22 MARCH 2017

NACGs

SAIEVAC’s innovation to build linkage and dialogue of governments, civil society and children
SAIEVAC’s Institutional Mechanism

GOVERNING BOARD

SAIEVAC REGIONAL Secretariat

SAIEVAC NATIONAL MECHANISM

National Govt. Focal Agencies

NACG (National Action and Co-ordinating Groups Ending VaC)

National Children’s Forum

SAIEVAC Governing Board

- Eight - Government Representatives
- Two - Child Representatives
- Two - Civil Society Organizations (NACG) Representatives
- One – SACG Chairperson
- One - Director General – SRS
THE PURPOSE

• TO STRENGTHEN INTER-AGENCY WORK INCLUDING WITH GOVERNMENTS AND CHILDREN’S GROUPS TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

VISION

• NACG’S VISION IS THAT ALL CHILDREN IN EVERY SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRY ENJOY THEIR RIGHT TO PROTECTION FROM ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE IN ALL SETTINGS
MISSION

TO WORK TOGETHER WITH THE SOUTH ASIA INITIATIVE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN (SAIEVAC), CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE, THE SOUTH ASIA COORDINATING GROUP ON ACTION AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN (SACG) AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL STAKEHOLDERS TO END ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN ALL SOUTH ASIA.

OBJECTIVES

• TO STRENGTHEN NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION AMONG THE NACG AGENCIES AT NATIONAL LEVEL, BUILDING A NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO PREVENT, ADDRESS AND END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN, GIRLS AND BOYS.

• TO ACTIVELY ENCOURAGE, ADVOCATE FOR AND SUPPORT NATIONAL LEVEL INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION AT ALL LEVELS.

• TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT THE STRENGTHENING OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND CHILDREN’S PARTICIPATION AT NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL, INCLUDING THROUGH A NATIONAL CHILDREN’S FORUMS

• TO PROMOTE A RIGHTS-BASED AND COORDINATED APPROACH TO THE STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS, INCLUDING COMMUNITY-BASED CHILD PROTECTION MECHANISMS.
OBJECTIVES – c’ntd

• TO EXCHANGE KNOWLEDGE AND ACTIVELY COLLABORATE WITH SAIEVAC, SACG AND OTHER NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL FORA AND BODIES WORKING ON ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN SOUTH ASIA, INCLUDING THE OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

• TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOUTH ASIA INITIATIVE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN (SAIEVAC) FIVE YEAR WORK PLAN (2011-2016); AND

• PROVIDE NECESSARY TECHNICAL AND OTHER SUPPORT TO SAIEVAC COORDINATORS/GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES AT NATIONAL LEVEL IN FURTHERING THE SAIEVAC AGENDA AND IN IMPLEMENTING THE SAIEVAC WORK PLAN.

Strategies

• Support and collaborate with SAIEVAC
• Support the implementation of the SAIEVAC Work plan
• Networking, coordination and capacity building
• Evidence-based advocacy at the national level to end violence against children
• Building knowledge base on violence against children in the country
• Strengthening national monitoring function on violence against children in the country
• Support and institutionalizing child participation
MEMBERSHIP and OBSERVERS STATUS

• NACG PROVIDES THE OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERSHIP AND OBSERVER STATUS TO THOSE CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS, CHILDREN’S AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S GROUPS, UN AGENCIES, MULTI-LATERAL AND BI-LATERAL AGENCIES, AND NGOS, WHO HAVE A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN TO STRENGTHENING CHILD PROTECTION IN THE COUNTRY

• WHILE THERE IS NO MEMBERSHIP FEE, AGENCIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO INVEST HUMAN AND OTHER RESOURCES TOWARDS MEETING THE GOALS OF NACG

MEMBERSHIP and OBSERVERS STATUS

• MEMBERS HAVE VOTING RIGHTS, THOUGH CONSENSUS IS THE PREFERRED WORKING METHOD

• OBSERVERS WILL NOT HAVE VOTING RIGHTS AND CANNOT REPRESENT NACG IN ANY FORUM/MEETING

• ALL MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS ARE EXPECTED TO COMPLY WITH THESE TOR
• The NACG is chaired with a two-year rotation term by a Chair and Co-Chair, nominated through a democratic and transparent process.

• Chair and Co-Chair are selected in the last NACG meeting of every second year.

• The Chair presides over all NACG meetings and may represent NACG in all relevant fora/meetings. In the absence of the Chair, the Co-Chair, with consent of the Chair, can take on this role.

• The Chair is responsible for calling NACG meetings, sending invitations, taking minutes and providing information and updates to all NACG members.

• The Chair and Co-Chair are selected in the last NACG meeting of every second year. In the absence of the Chair, the Co-Chair, with consent of the Chair, may take on the Chair's role.

• The Chair is responsible for calling NACG meetings, sending invitations, taking minutes and providing information and updates to all NACG members.

• The Chair and Co-Chair can mutually agree to divide the tasks between them, if they find desirable.

• The Chair is responsible for sharing with new NACG members and observers the NACG TOR, the updated list of NACG agencies with their contacts and any eventual agreement and action plan involving NACG and which might be in force at the time of the new agency joining.

• The Chair is responsible to network, collaborate and be focal point on behalf of the group for: SAIEVAC National Chapter and National Coordinator, SAIEVAC Governing Board Member, SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat in Kathmandu.

• The Chair is responsible to communicate regularly with SAIEVAC and SACG and update them on NACG activities.

• The Chair and Co-Chair can mutually agree to divide the tasks between them, if they find desirable.
NACGs.....

....CONSTITUTE (designed to..) THE BACKBONE OF SAIEVAC’s MOVEMENT TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN THE SAARC REGION.....

.....AND BEYOND!
IOM X: Contributing to human trafficking prevention through a Communication for Development Approach

22 March 2017

Lindsey Higgs, IOM X Partnerships Officer, lhiggs@iom.int

ABOUT IOM

• Inter-governmental organization established in 1951
• Leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration
• UN Agency for Migration
• 165 members states, with a further 8 states holding observer status.
• 480 offices in 150 countries
• 9000+ staff worldwide
• IOM is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all. It does so by providing services and advice to governments and migrants.
44% of people living in conditions of exploitation are migrants

THE TRAFFICKING - MIGRATION CONNECTION

IOM X is IOM's innovative campaign to encourage safe migration and public action to stop exploitation and human trafficking in the Asia Pacific Region. The campaign is produced in partnership with USAID. Launched in October 2014, the campaign has so far:

- Produced 19 videos, potentially reaching 100 million viewers.
- Held 26 events, including with celebrities, government representatives and NGOs.
- Partnered with 32 private sector companies, including Microsoft, IBM and television channels across the region.
- Built a large online following, with over 400,000 followers on social media, and over 50 million people engaged digitally.
- Developed innovative solutions to prevent human trafficking, including 6Degree.org, which allows the public to donate directly to victims of human trafficking.
IOM X leverages the power and popularity of media and technology to inspire young people and their communities to act against human trafficking.

We design our activities using a Communication for Development (C4D) approach.

C4D is used to understand people’s knowledge, attitudes and practices around a particular issue. It involves working with communities to develop messages and tools to help them improve their own lives.
IOM X PRIORITY SECTORS (2016-2018)

Fishing  Domestic Work  Entertainment  Manufacturing  Forced Marriage

COMMUNITY OF ORIGIN:
ASPIRANT MIGRANTS

COMMUNITY OF DESTINATION:
CURRENT MIGRANTS,
EMPLOYERS

COMMUNITY OF ORIGIN:
ASPIRANT MIGRANTS

COMMUNITY OF DESTINATION:
CURRENT MIGRANTS,
EMPLOYERS

AUDIENCE
IOM X targets its activities to specific audiences, using this framework:

Community

Individual

Community

Individual
People might know but

**It cannot happen to me** – the risk is not personal.

**I am willing to take the risk** – potential benefit is worth more than the possible harm.

**I cannot practice safe behaviour** – access to information, pressure from family and friends.

**KNOWLEDGE** | **ATTITUDE** | **PRACTICE**

---

**The behaviour change journey**

- **Unaware**
  - Are aware and concerned about issue

- **Aware**
  - Ready/motivated to change

- **Deciding to Act**
  - Trying new behaviour

- **Action**
  - Have tried new behaviour and are repeating or continuing.

- **Maintenance**
  - Practices new behaviour routinely; Becomes an advocate.
Impact assessment for a short drama about trafficking and exploitation in the fishing industry
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPICAL MESSAGE</th>
<th>ACTION MESSAGE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stop human trafficking!</td>
<td>Call XXX to report suspected exploitation! You can help stop human trafficking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beware of illegal migration!</td>
<td>Check to make sure a job is real before you migrate. Call the labour hotline at XXX.</td>
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By applying a Communication for Development (C4D) / Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) model to its activities, IOM X moves beyond simply raising awareness about exploitation and human trafficking to affecting behaviour change.

Findings from pre- and post-Knowledge, Attitude and Intended Practices (KAP) surveys with viewers of IOM X videos show that:

- More than 90% of Indonesians who watched Open Doors: An IOM X Production took at least one step towards the desired behaviour change of respecting domestic workers rights in their homes.
- After watching Prisana: An IOM X Drama, respondents were 64% more likely to support companies that follow fair trade practices to help prevent exploitation in the fishing industry.
- In Cambodia, aspirant male migrants were 83% more likely to visit a migrant resource centre after watching IOM X’s Know Before You Go.
What can you do as parliamentarians?

Consider applying a C4D behaviour change approach that takes knowledge, attitudes and current and desired behaviours into account to strengthen all your outreach and awareness-raising initiatives.

IOM X's C4D Toolkit can help!

lhiggs@iom.int

OR

iomx.org/turning-what-you-know-into-what-you-do/

Learn more at IOMX.org
Data, Research and Monitoring in Counter-Human Trafficking

Paul Buckley, Regional Technical Specialist, UN-ACT
Bangkok, Thailand | 22 March 2017

Outline

• Purpose: Why do we need to focus on TIP data?
• Challenges: What makes data collection and analysis so difficult?
• Approaches: How can we collect the data we need?
• Monitoring: How do we know that the intended changes occurred?
• What can you do?
Purpose: Why focus on data collection?
- To better understand the phenomenon of human trafficking
- To determine trafficking prevalence and flows, root causes, etc.
- To monitor changes over time
- To develop responses to the problem
- To assess the effectiveness of responses

Challenges:
- Diverse patterns of trafficking
- Ambiguities and differences in definitions
- Understandings and representations of trafficking
- Determining responses and measuring impact
Challenges: Why so difficult?

• Overall TIP data
  • Various efforts have been made to collect global trafficking data
  • Complicated by differing definitions and timeframes, the clandestine nature of the crime, lack of resources, etc.

• Victim support data
  • Usually based on victim service data, includes personal and family background, the trafficking experience, protection services data, etc.
  • Information on those receiving support, results in significant biases that can result in wrong interpretations and misguided responses

Challenges: Why so difficult?

• Criminal justice data
  • Based on case data from investigations to convictions
  • Important to consider the quality and transparency of the criminal justice system in a given country when analyzing the relevant TIP response
  • Only includes information on those going through the criminal justice system, and therefore inherent biases
  • Without qualitative data, we cannot determine the quality of the targets
Approaches: How to…?

• Overall TIP research
  • There is a need for more micro-level studies:
    a) More valid prevalence and other data due to limited parameters
    b) Richer insights regarding lived experiences
    c) Better opportunities to identify trafficking hotspots
  • Rigorous research can overcome some of the biases of other data sources and hence be a real asset in better understanding and responding to human trafficking
  • Yet, research projects are time-bound (and only if repeatedly implemented tell you about trends) and resource-intense

Approaches: How to…?

• Victim support data:
  • Victim support data can provide a richer qualitative data on context and background than quantitative data
  • It may help improve understanding of vulnerability factors or root causes, the trafficking process from the victims’ perspective, and M&E
  • It can provide indications of where quantitative data collection may be worth investing in
  • A key advantage is the continuous collection of data with relatively little extra resources required
Approaches: How to…?

- Criminal justice data:
  - Can help us understand the modus operandi of traffickers, both individuals and broader trafficking networks
  - Useful in monitoring the effectiveness of the criminal justice response, e.g. analyzing attrition in cases at different stages
  - Review cases that were not successful in investigations as well as those that were, understand the differences
  - Look at related crime types – where cases were prosecuted for different offences
Example: Trafficking flows - determining prevalence of possible unidentified victims of trafficking among deportee populations

• Arose from a need for methodologies to estimate proportions of given populations that may have experienced forced labour and trafficking
• Determining where non-identified victims may be found and assisted
• Profiles of possible victims and those who are less vulnerable, disaggregated by sex, age, locations, and trafficking types
• Mapping source and destination locations and industries for targeting interventions

Example: Trafficking flows - Qualitative research on cases of forced marriage

• Understanding nuances and differences between brokered international marriages and forced marriage
• Detailing means of coercion, deception and abuse
• ‘We were put up in a house. Two days later, men came to look at us and took away some of the women. I asked my peer what was going on. She informed me that men came to pick up their wives. I was surprised since I had come here to find work. The friend told me that unless we had a husband we would not find work…’
Example: Victim support ‘After Trafficking’ qualitative study

- Large scale research exploring experiences in identification and (re)integration
- Various trafficking types in all countries
- Detailed analysis of a range of issues:
  - Why trafficked persons were not identified
  - Why some declined assistance,
  - What services would they need,
  - What would encourage more to self-identify…

Monitoring interventions: How to measure change?

- A results-based management (RBM) approach is a broad management strategy aimed at achieving improved performance and demonstrable results

- Results must be understood as changes at various levels

- Changes may be intended or unintended, positive or negative, and derive from a cause-and-effect relationship that can be set in motion by development interventions (see: Theory of Change)
Monitoring: How to measure change?

- The results chain in RBM:

  - **Inputs**
    - Staff
    - Time
    - Money

  - **Activities**
    - Develop a training module
    - Train stakeholders

  - **Outputs**
    - Service agencies have increased knowledge and skills in Human Rights-based service delivery

  - **Outcomes**
    - Empowerment amongst VOTs following support through service agencies is enhanced

  - **Impact**
    - Incidences of re-trafficking reduced

A key question in RBM is how do we know that the intended changes have occurred?

- An Indicator is a signpost of change along the path of development, which may:
  a) be set at all levels of results (Outputs, Outcomes, Impact)
  b) measure changes in process or results
  c) be of quantitative or qualitative nature
What can you do?

• Data collection in counter-trafficking takes **investment**: budgetary and human resources

• Political will to address the potential types of trafficking in national contexts

• Coordination between agencies who do not normally share data, between law enforcement agencies and victim service providers

• Engage agencies with expertise in data collection

• Openness to monitoring and evaluation to improve counter-trafficking interventions

• Among others…
Session 4
Disaggregated Data, Collection, Analysis & Synthesis

Introduction

Data Disaggregation

“... leaving no one behind”
How do you feel, “on average”?

Very good, "on average"

“How” are left behind?

- Hard-to-reach
- Hidden population
- Discriminated/marginalized/excluded
- Vulnerable sub-population groups
- Geographical isolated
Power of data and statistics?

- Visibility: identification
- Informed policy: issues and needs
- Appropriate data collection tools and methods (aggregate/disaggregate)
- Data use by policy makers and decision makers

Develop a disaggregation strategy

- Design, tools, collection, dissemination
- Communicate
- Re-think
- Identify
- Who is “targeted” by policy?

Don’t talk about numbers, Talk about “people”
Data Needs to be Used*

- **Content**: Governments and organizations disclose data on development resources
- **Channel**: Disseminate this information to users online or offline
- **Choice**: Citizens and officials take action individually or collectively
- **Consequence**: To improve the country’s performance on achieving sustainable development for all

*Avoiding Data Graveyards: Insights from Data Producers & Users in Three Countries. Editors: Samantha Custer and Tanya Sethi. 2017

Data Disaggregation in Global SDG Indicator Framework

17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts
Agenda 2030 Global Indicator Framework: Human Trafficking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Indicator elements</th>
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</table>
| 5    | 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation | 5.2.1  
- Proportion of  
- ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older  
- subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner  
- in the previous 12 months,  
- by form of violence  
- by age |
### Agenda 2030 Global Indicator Framework: Human Trafficking

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<td>5</td>
<td>5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation</td>
<td>5.2.2 - Proportion of - <strong>women and girls aged 15 years and older</strong> - subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner - in the previous 12 months - <strong>by age and place of occurrence</strong></td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value</td>
<td>8.5.1 - Average hourly earnings - <strong>of female and male employees</strong> - by occupation - <strong>by age</strong> - <strong>by persons with disabilities</strong> 8.5.2 - Unemployment rate - <strong>by sex</strong> - <strong>by age</strong> - <strong>by persons with disabilities</strong></td>
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### Agenda 2030 Global Indicator Framework: Human Trafficking

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<td>8 8.7</td>
<td>Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms</td>
<td>8.7.1 - Proportion and number of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labour by sex and by age</td>
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<td>8 8.8</td>
<td>Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment</td>
<td>8.8.1 - Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries by sex and by migrant status</td>
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<td>8.8.2 - Level of national compliance of labour rights based on ILO textual sources and national legislation by sex and migrant status</td>
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### Agenda 2030 Global Indicator Framework: Human Trafficking

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<th>Goal</th>
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<th>Indicator elements</th>
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| 10   | 10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies | 10.7.1 - Proportion of - Recruitment cost borne by employee of yearly income earned in country of destination  
10.7.2 - Number of - Countries - that have implemented well-managed migration policies |
| 16   | 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children | 16.2.2 - Number of - victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population - by sex, age and form of exploitation  
16.2.3 - Proportion of - young women and men aged 18-29 years - who experienced sexual violence by age 18 |
Data Challenges

Production

% of indicators for which at least one data point is available since 2005*

* Information based on ESCAP Database only

Min
Max
Mean
# of indicators for which at least one data point is available since 2005*

* Information based on ESCAP Database only

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%age of indicators with available regional aggregates for ESCAP region

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Opportunities

- People-centered planning (integrate SDGs)

Also… (statistics-speak)

- More auxiliary data
- More administrative data
- More geospatial info
- Use of big data
- Access to micro-data
- Advanced methods/tools for small-area estimation
What do child victims need to know?

‘How can we raise our voices, when we are not aware of our rights?’

Survivor of trafficking, India
'One of the reasons they cannot raise voice is because they are not educated, they do not know about their rights, and these legal possibilities'

Survivor of sexual exploitation, Nepal
‘Bill of Rights can be used as a base for a global action plan and strategies against child sexual abuse and exploitation’

Survivor of sexual exploitation, Pakistan

‘Justice is not just about the filing of cases and court hearings, it’s about the provided services as well. As one who became a victim of sexual abuse, we are robbed of our rights and we feel like nothing can bring it back to us. That’s why justice should not just be on papers or documents; it should be given proper action’

Survivors, the Philippines
‘Would absolutely love to see one of these posters in public spaces. In fact, these are the sorts of poster that we NEED to be everywhere’

Member of the Child Helpline International Youth Advisory Council, Malaysia

Thank you!
The Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons

- The Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons was adopted at the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly in July 2010.
- Member States reaffirmed their commitment to end trafficking in persons: to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, to protect and assist victims, to prosecute perpetrators, and to promote partnerships to strengthen coordination and cooperation for those purposes.
- A High-Level Meeting will take place on 2-3 October 2017 to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, assessing achievements, gaps, and challenges.
- H.E. Catherine Boura, Permanent Representative of Greece to the UN, and H.E. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of Qatar to the UN, were appointed as co-facilitators to consult with Member States on the preparation for the High-Level Meeting.
Reporting the Progress

- A number of new or insufficiently addressed themes were raised which merit further discussion within the United Nations and beyond.

Some of these themes are:
- the interrelation of human trafficking and migration
- forced and child labour
- trafficking in persons in conflict, crisis and disaster
- human trafficking for the purpose of organ removal

Challenges Identified in the Review


- How can we prepare a review document that goes beyond a wordy compilation of agreed paragraphs that presents succinct practical guidance on what has to be done to make the global struggle against all forms of human trafficking more effective?
- How can we make sure that all relevant non-governmental stakeholders can actively contribute ideas and suggestions regardless of their speaking rights at the negotiation table?
- How can we ensure that the zero draft of the outcome document is as representative as possible of new ideas and timely analysis?
The Way Forward

- Regional and National level consultations are underway to prepare for the UNGA High-Level Meeting in October 2017.

- Parliamentarians are encouraged to engage with ILO, UNODC, IOM country offices to participate in stakeholder consultations.

Thank You