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| Group of Friends Logo - Blue | **TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS:**  **ELIMINATING FORCED LABOUR**  **THEMATIC roundtable**  **Conference Room 8, UN Headquarters, New York, Thursday, April 14, 2016, 10 am – 11.30 am** |  |
| **Bahrain**  **Bangladesh**  **Belarus**  **Bolivia**  **Chile**  **Ecuador**  **Egypt**  **Eritrea**  **India**  **Kazakhstan**  **Kyrgyzstan**  **Lao People’s Democratic Republic**  **Libya**  **Nicaragua**  **Nigeria**  **Philippines**  **Qatar**  **Russian Federation**  **Singapore**  **Tajikistan**  **Turkmenistan**  **UAE**  **Uzbekistan**  **Venezuela** |  |  |
| **Background and programme**  According to the UNODC Global TIP Report 2014, some 53 per cent of the trafficked victims detected in 2011 were subjected to sexual exploitation, whereas forced labour accounted for about 40 per cent of the total number of trafficked victims.  Trafficking for the purpose of forced labour – a broad category which includes, for example, manufacturing, cleaning, construction, catering, restaurants, domestic work and textile production – has been increasing steadily in recent years. The International Labor Organisation estimates that there are nearly 21 million people enslaved today while other estimates are as high as 35 million. Forced labour makes up the majority of these people. ILO estimates that the profits generated by forced labor amount to US$ 150 billion annually.  Different trafficking operations have one key element in common: business around the exploitation of the victims. With a few exceptions the vast majority of trafficking is aimed at obtaining economic benefit from the labour and services extorted from the victims.  From the time raw material is taken out of the ground or fish from the ocean, products will move through several tiers of suppliers until it reaches the ultimate consumer.  While traveling through these supply chains, many goods including the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the electronics and jewelry we enjoy, can be produced by forced labour.  A special thematic event “Trafficking in Persons: Eliminating Forced Labour” provides an opportunity to exchange information on national efforts to combat trafficking in persons in the context of labour slavery and explore the ways of eliminating forced labour, including through initiatives lead by the civil society.  **pProgrPRPRamme**   1. **Statements by the invited speakers** (moderated by **Valentin Rybakov,** Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus):  * **Kairat Abdrakhmanov,** Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the UN, Member of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking * **Sarah Mendelson,** Ambassador, United States Representative to ECOSOC * **Rev. Msgr. Joseph Grech,** First Secretary, Holy See Mission to the UN * **Kevin Cassidy,** Senior Communications and Public Information Specialist of ILO * **Yu Ping Chan,** Special Policy Advisor, UNODC, New York Office * **Ursula Wynoven,** General Counsel, Chief of Governance and Social Sustainability, United Nations Global Compact * **Bejamin Skinner,** Founder, Transparentem * **Rani Hong,** trafficking survivor, head of Tronie Foundation  1. **Q&A**   Contact: Mrs Irina Velichko, Minister Counsellor, Mission of Belarus  e-mail: [iravelichko@gmail.com](mailto:iravelichko@gmail.com), phone (917) 664-377 | |