

Mutli-stakeholder Hearing
as Part of the Preparatory Process to the high-level event
to review the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons

Panel discussion three “Trafficking in Persons
in the Context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda”

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Statement by **Vadim Pisarevich**,

Deputy Director-General for Multilateral Diplomacy,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus

We know that trafficking in persons is reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development **in three targets**: 5.2, 8.7, 16.2. So, it certainly makes much sense to reflect them in the Political Declaration.

On behalf of the of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking, composed of 24 countries, namely Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgystan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Libya, Nicaragua, Nigeria, the Philippines, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Venezuela and my own country, Belarus, I have the honour to present some ideas on how best to proceed on the matter.

Very recently, on May 26 the Vienna-based **UN Commission on Crime Prevention adopted resolution** “Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons”. The resolution was sponsored by Belarus. I had the honor of chairing informal negotiations on the draft.

Let me first say that the draft was met with enormous interest, as up to a hundred delegations attended four-day-long informals. The delegations wanted to learn from the New York-based appraisal process and to contribute to it.

We think with the adoption of this resolution **Vienna sent a very clear signal of support to New York**.

The negotiations featured a very extensive and lively debate on SDGs and human trafficking. Our point of departure was a reference to one relevant paragraph from GA resolution 70/179, which addressed only one human trafficking related target – 8.7.

The delegations were of the view that it was not enough. So, we aimed for more. And we succeeded.

The resolution contains three paragraphs in the preambular part devoted to the theme of SDGs and human trafficking.

Specifically, the resolution lists the three targets and provides very specific text on their content. What is more, the resolution links the three paragraphs to the implementation of the Global Plan.

Importantly, twenty Member States representing different parts of the world cosponsored the document.

So, we would like to humbly advise the delegations to take a close look at the resolution. We think it may help in our appraisal process. And we also hope **that the same high level of support to the topic of the Global Plan demonstrated recently in Vienna will be shown in New York.**

And last but not least. The implementation of SDGs on human trafficking issues needs a comprehensive approach, which should harness all stakeholders. In this context **the role of Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT)** as the crucial element in the global fight against human trafficking is very important. In this regard we invite ICAT with UNODC as its coordinator to work on SDGs implementation, as well as in close connection with the member states on this matter.