

*Statement by H.E. Valentin Rybakov,  
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on behalf of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking  
Event “Presentation of the 2018 UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons”,  
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Your Excellencies,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me a great pleasure to speak on behalf of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking that includes Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the 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.

We are pleased to welcome all of you at the presentation of the 2018 UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, which is prepared every two years in accordance with the provisions of the **United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons**. A few weeks ago the Report was presented in Vienna at a special event of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Today following our good traditions, we are presenting it in New York.

Every Global Report on Trafficking in Persons is a **milestone** in our common efforts to prevent and combat this heinous crime that is still a reality all over the world. We welcome the release of the latest Global Report on Trafficking in Persons and extend our thanks to the whole team of experts that did a great job in putting together and preparing the document.

The Global Report on Trafficking in Persons is an excellent **source of reliable information** on the issue of trafficking in its multifaceted aspects and forms. The Report outlines the scope of problem of trafficking in human beings and related crimes around the world. This information is essential for understanding the magnitude of the human trafficking problem and for identifying the most effective strategies to tackle it.

One of the most important points of the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons is that globally countries detect and report **more victims**, as well as convict **more perpetrators**. Unfortunately, the number of people becoming victims of

human trafficking has been increasing. Nevertheless, it can be also pointed out that many countries improve and develop their systems of identification of both victims of trafficking and traffickers.

In accordance with the report, **trafficking for sexual exploitation continues** to be the most detected form of trafficking that is mainly targeting women and girls. At the same time, it is important that the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons also explores less frequently detected types of trafficking in persons, such as **trafficking for organ removal**, the investigation and prosecution of which proves to be very challenging because of the nature of that type of trafficking.

The Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2018 puts the spotlight on **human trafficking in armed conflict**. There is increasing trend in some regions of links between armed groups, including terrorist groups, and trafficking in persons. We need to pay a special attention to the issue of trafficking in persons in situations of armed conflict and humanitarian emergencies, including natural disasters.

Modern times bring solutions to many problems but also **modern challenges**. Traffickers actively take the advantage of **information and communications technologies** to reach larger audiences and to carry out criminal activities more quickly and efficiently. As noted in the Global Report, what may start out as an innocent interaction between individuals may develop into a case of trafficking in persons. In the facilitation of trafficking in persons, criminals use a variety of online resources, including various online open and classified advertisement and adult sites, social networks and other available technological means, such as the darknet, to obscure online communications.

These challenges and beyond, which are analyzed in depth in the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, urge us **to continue fostering cooperation and coordination** among all relevant stakeholders, including Member States, international organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector, and within various entities of the United Nations system, **ICAT**, in particular, taking into account existing best practices and lessons learned.

Thank you for your attention.