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on

the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons

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Panel 1 on The Global Plan of Action and effective partnership for the prevention for the prevention and prosecution of trafficking in persons: achievements, gaps, and challenges, also taking into consideration the implementation of the SDGs

Intervention by

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Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished participants,

First, I wish to commend the dedicated work of the Permanent Representatives of Qatar and Belgium as co-facilitators of the consultation process and as moderators of the panel discussions this afternoon.

Let me also thank Dr. Purna Sen, Director of Policy at UN Women; Mr. Moussa Oumarou, Director of the Governance and Tripartism Department of the International Labor Organization; Ms. Rani Honf, CEO of the Trone Foundation for their informative briefings.

Hungary, aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Human Trafficking is one of the **most horrific crimes of our times; it is an open wound on the body of humanity and therefore a truly outstanding global challenge**. Sadly, it **occurs in every country and region, all around the world** even nowadays. Because of its transnational nature, we know that **this problem cannot be solved by individual states alone**, but it requires enhanced international cooperation among countries of origin, destination and transit with the support of all relevant stakeholders.

Fighting human trafficking is of great relevance to the work of Hungary based on the importance of human dignity and planetary consciousness.

The 2030 Agenda is the best chance of our time to tackle this deeply rooted challenge and eventually eliminate it. The UN Member States **not only in SDG target 8.7**, but **also in targets 5.2, 5.3 and 16.2** agreed to take effective measures with the aim to eradicate human trafficking, forced labour, child labour, and other forms of human exploitation.

Besides **empowering all stakeholders** so that they become conscious **consumers**, vigilant **law enforcement** officers, trained **humanitarian** and **peacekeeping** personnel, dedicated **policy makers** and safe **internet users**. Above all, we need to empower **survivors** so that they feel safe enough to seek help and share their stories.

Raising global awareness is crucial. Thank you Rani for sharing your story with us.

I am a firm believer in the power of media. **I know that communication matters**. This is why **I hosted for example the Foreign Press Association Scholarship Fund Awards this May at Hungary's Mission to the UN.** The topic for the competition was human trafficking addressing „the role of the international

media to shine a light on the great moral and societal issues of our times, not to sensationalize, but to hold accountable the governments, decision makers and civil society".

With the same aim of putting modern slavery in the spotlight, last week **Hungary co-hosted a high level event with the United Kingdom and Denmark as well as the WHY Foundation to launch the Why slavery? Series here in the Trusteeship Council**, raising a media campaign on why slavery remains so endemic in the 21st Century. We also hosted a panel discussion on protecting religious minorities related to Human Trafficking.

Last week we have put the question Why? Today I am asking how? How can we implement the Global Plan of Action more effectively?

Human trafficking is one of the **most severe abuses of human rights**, and **a lucrative business** that generates billions of dollars in revenues every year. That is the reason why **eliminating human trafficking** and creating safe environments **can only be achieved by detecting and disrupting financial flows associated with the phenomena**. **The holistic approach to the problem** shall imply bringing the perpetrators of trafficking to justice and **holding those accountable who support and enable their activities**.

Investigations into human trafficking should always include parallel and complementary financial investigations of human trafficking networks. We have to make sure that **any allegation of such crime** and money laundering under suspicious transactions **is investigated and prosecuted.** We need to **strengthen reporting mechanisms on human trafficking** and associated financial flows as well.

Preventing perpetrators from abusing the global financial system is a priority of the Hungarian Anti-money laundering/Countering the financing of terrorism regime. The g**rowing threat implied an even more vigilant approach of the reporting entitie**s.

Collecting and analyzing data is equally of key importance. **We need multi-disciplinary teams and international cooperation in investigations**. Hungary believes that **coordination and data sharing among Member States**, civil society, the business community and UN entities should be concentrated on and strengthened, including through the mechanism of ICAT, the Inter-Agency Coordination Group Against Trafficking in Persons.

Interagency cooperation must start at a nation level. In Hungary, for example the investigating authorities quarterly inform the central supervision about the

number and progress on investigations due to suspected money laundering under suspicious transactions. Police has to report to the Hungarian Financial Intelligence Unit, which is carrying out regular strategic analysis.

The **Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade hosted the regional consultation workshop for Europe and Central Asia of Alliance 8.7** in June, **jointly organized by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).** The workshop offered stakeholders in the region the opportunity to identify and put forward priority actions to support the achievement of SDG target 8.7 with the aim of accelerating political and international support for the eradication of child labour, forced labour, and all types of modern slavery and human trafficking, like sex slavery at the regional level.

Just yesterday, I hosted a conference of the **Global Sustainability Network** founded by Lord Bishop Alastair from the Church of England, Monsignor Bishop Sanchez, Chancellor of the Roman Catholic Church and Mr. Raza Jafar, entrepreneur and philanthropist. The Network has a growing **membership** of over 300 **socially conscious philanthropists** and **influential change-makers across six sectors** of the globe: academia, business, faith-based organizations, governments, media and NGOs - all committed to achieve SDG 8 to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work, while **focusing on target 8.7** on tackling modern day slavery and human trafficking. The event was an important demonstration of the role of **inter-religious dialogue in prevention** and in **tackling the root causes of modern day slavery and human trafficking.**

We should keep these issues **on the agenda as a priority**, and I encourage Member States to engage in a **reinforced cooperation** on law enforcement, investigations and information sharing.

I thank you for your kind attention!