

GLO.ACT introduction by

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Excellencies

Distinguished colleagues from the government authorities, CSO's

UNODC, IOM and UNICEF colleagues

Ladies and Gentlemen

BUENOS DIAS, Good Morning

A warm welcome to you all and thank you for giving me the opportunity to introduce **Session 2** of this event which focusses on GLO.ACT. As you have already heard, GLO.ACT is the Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants, a four year project being delivered through till July 2019. It is a joint initiative by the European Union (EU) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) being implemented in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 13 strategically selected countries.

GLO.ACT is managed from UNODC HQ in Vienna and in partnership with colleagues in IOM (Geneva) and UNICEF (New York). At this juncture, may I introduce Mr Ilias Chatzis, Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section, who unfortunately could not be here today but has a video message from Vienna.

UNODC colleagues have flown in from Vienna and are dedicated staff members that cover key areas such as the management of the project, policy issues, communications and visibility, monitoring and evaluation and finance and administration. The national staff who **deliver** GLO.ACT activities in 12 countries out of 13 GLO.ACT participating countries are being hosted by the UNODC GLO.ACT Colombia National Project Officer, Mr. Carlos Perez and have flown in from **Brazil, Egypt, Kyrgyz Republic, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mali, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, South Africa and Ukraine.**

The Government of Colombia has been one of the most keen, most active and most supportive partners of GLO.ACT since the first consultations regarding the project. In May 2016, the Government of Colombia generously hosted a high level event in Vienna with the presence of UNODC's Executive Director and the EU and Colombian Ambassadors, to formally present the project to the international community in Vienna on the margins of the Commission for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

GLO.ACT Colombia was launched in February 2017 with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the European Union Delegation to Colombia. By May 2017, we had the opportunity to welcome to Vienna 13 government focal points from the GLO.ACT partner countries, including Colombia. This was a first occasion for GLO.ACT partners to share best practices, challenges and lessons learned so far in tackling trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants. The meeting was a great success and clearly there was interest from our partner countries - not only to know what is happening at the global level – but also to learn from and exchange ideas upon, how best to address this serious transnational organized crime.

What makes GLO.ACT unique?

- **Firstly**, it is a joint EU-UNODC comprehensive project – addressing both trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants across the criminal justice sector – from legislative and technical assistance to capacity building to regional cooperation, as well the protection of victims and vulnerable migrants, especially children.
- **Secondly**, it has the benefit of a triple partnership between UNODC, IOM and UNICEF. What this means is that it is bringing the strengths of these three UN organization's mandate, field presence and expertise.
- **Thirdly**, GLO.ACT is being delivered across all regions of the world – Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America.

The luxury of having a 4-year project has meant that it has allowed for deeper engagement and amplification of results. During my first visit to Colombia in 2016, national authorities organised site visits in Bogota and Medellin. One such visit was to the transitory rooms where migrants receive assistance from the Migration and Border Control Officers. In many respects, it was a defining moment. I saw first hand – 16 migrants in the transitory rooms, made up of 2 women and 14 men – most came from within the region and planning to go further afield to America or Canada. One gentleman was from Africa and he had travelled from West Africa via South Africa to get to Colombia enroute to North America. It was also at the meeting with Immigration that a presentation by the Migration and Border Control Officers indicated that migrants who were in transit in Colombia had travelled from some GLO.ACT participating countries - from Asia (Nepal), crossing Africa (South Africa) and Latin America (Brazil) on their way to North America. This important finding generated a discussion among GLO.ACT colleagues and government focal points and eventually created an opportunity to explore strengthening regional and trans-regional responses and links between countries.

GLO.ACT produced 13 reports that provide a snapshot of countries response to trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants. GLO.ACT provided government authorities with the reports including a set of recommendations and suggested implementation plans for addressing trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants. As you already heard, on the basis of those

recommendations, GLO.ACT has since delivered over a 100 activities across the globe, focussing on strategy and policy, legislative assistance, capacity building, protection and assistance to victims including children and regional and trans regional cooperation.

The GLO.ACT national staff who you see today, should be seen as highly valued assets for project delivery, very much owning the success of the project to date together with the government authorities that they closely engage with on a regular basis. You will soon hear from them.

I will conclude by extending my appreciation to the Government of Colombia represented here by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Mayor of Bogota. The process of engagement has been very positive and we look forward to continuing this ongoing dialogue. To the European Union, we acknowledge the generous support and the positive dialogue we have here in Colombia, in Brussels and with other European Union Delegations from the GLO.ACT participating countries.

Thanks to our implementing partners – IOM and UNICEF and my deepest appreciation to UNODC Colombia for the organisation of this meeting.

Muchas gracias. Thank you.