

**Speech**

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 **Training Workshop:**

**To Strengthen the Capacity of Egyptian Prosecutors to Investigate and Prosecute Migrant Smuggling Crimes**

**15 - 18 October 2017 –Cairo**

**Your Excellency, Ambassador Naela Gabr, Chairperson of the National Coordination Committee for Preventing and Combating Illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons**

**Counsellor Kamel Samir, Director of International Cooperation and Human Rights Division, Office of the Prosecutor General**

**Ms. Helen Winterton, Deputy Head of Mission, British Embassy in Egypt**

**Distinguished participants and colleagues**

In my capacity as UNODC Regional Representative for MENA, I welcome you to the Training Workshop to “Strengthen the Capacity of Egyptian Prosecutors to Investigate and Prosecute Migrant Smuggling Crimes”, jointly organized with the National Coordination Committee for Preventing and Combating Illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons, and thank you for your participation.

It is my distinct pleasure to be here with you one week after my arrival to this beautiful country and to attend a workshop which deals with a subject that is not only a core mandate of our Office, but also very dear to my heart.

Allow me first to thank Ambassador **Naela Gabr**, for honouring us with her presence during my very first participation in an event in Egypt, but also for her long-standing personal commitment to the fight against trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling. We at the Regional Office cherish the partnership with the National Coordination Committee under her leadership, and look forward to fortifying it. My thanks go also to her team for their tireless efforts.

I also wish to express my gratitude to the team of the General Prosecutor Office headed by His Excellency Counsellor **Nabil Sadek**, and especially thank the team of the International Cooperation and Human Rights Department, headed by our dear partner, Counsellor Kamel Samir. No one can deny the role that the Prosecutor General’s Office plays in responding to organized transnational crime, including human trafficking and migrant smuggling. I look forward to meeting both Ambassador Naela Gabr and Counsellor Sadek in the near future to discuss issues of common concern and ways for furthering our joint collaboration in the future both in the country and across the region.

This Workshop signals the inauguration of an integrated series of technical assistance trainings for Judges, prosecutors and police officers to counter Migrant Smuggling. These will be conducted in different provinces in the country so that we can reach out and serve you on a wider scale. Our keenness to do so, is not only to serve Egypt, but also to benefit from the built expertise at the regional level.

I take the opportunity to also commend the partnership with the United Kingdom, represented here by Ms. Winterton, and for generously funding several of our projects, including “**Strengthen the efforts to combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling in Egypt**”. This project targets prosecutors who play critical role in the criminal investigation chain to bring perpetrators to justice. I am also pleased to inform that under the **UNODC Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants (GLO.ACT)** funded by the European Union, we will be implementing other supplementary activities and workshops targeting prosecutors, judges and police officers.

**Ladies and gentlemen**

As you are aware, Smuggling of Migrants and human trafficking are global problems of considerable scope and devastating impact on their victims and survivors. Especially over the last years we all have witnessed the tragedy of so many lives lost when men, women and children – in the hope for a better life - embark on an uncertain journey facilitated by criminal groups exploiting vulnerable human beings for mere profit.

Human beings are trafficked and smuggled along a multitude of trafficking routes; within countries, between neighbouring countries or even across different continents. According to the last UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, more than 500 different trafficking flows were detected between 2012 and 2014. Although human trafficking and migrant smuggling are two different crimes as established by United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its two supplementary protocols on Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons, the latest UNODC report also found that migration flows and cross-border trafficking flows resemble each other. The same can be said for human trafficking victims from conflict areas and resulting refugee and migration flows.

Based on two of the principle smuggling routes - East, North and West Africa to Europe and South to North America - it is estimated that the smuggling of migrants generates around $6.75 billion a year for criminals operating in these regions alone.

Some 55,000 migrants are thought to be smuggled from East, North and West Africa into Europe every year, generating around $150 million in revenue for criminals. Last year alone 5000 people died while being smuggled.

The fees charged to smuggle migrants differ substantially based on the point of origin, with figures ranging from $2,000 to $10,000.

**Ladies and gentlemen**

With the entry into force of the UNTOC and its protocols on Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons, UNODC has been mandated to work with Member states, including Egypt, to strengthen the criminal justice response to both crimes as well as national regional and interregional cooperation to achieve the goals of the Convention and its Protocols.

Egypt has taken big strides since it first ratified UNTOC on 5 March 2004. The enactment of Law No. 82 of 2016 on Combating Illegal Migration and Smuggling of Migrants is a case in point. Not only does the law counter Smuggling of Migrants and provides the respective criminal justice response to the perpetrator and facilitator of the crime, but it provides support to the victims. The Law also instituted the National Coordination Committee for Preventing and Combating Illegal migration and Trafficking in Persons, which is another critical step in the way to effectively counter both human trafficking and smuggling of migrants.

**Ladies and gentlemen**

A lot of work is still to be done to counter Smuggling of Migrants. The continuous commitment and support of all Member States in the region will enable UNODC to continue providing technical assistance to requesting countries in the region. We are fully confident that the knowledge you will acquire through the days of the workshop can be applied in practical terms and will translate into new ideas and approaches which can be integrated into the national system. UNODC is ready and committed to continue to support the national efforts in Egypt and serve you with the best of our collective knowledge and experience from around the world through experts, analysis, training and capacity-building with a view to enhance and strengthen the national expertise in the region.

I wouldn’t like to conclude before reiterating my sincere appreciation to the team and officials of the National Coordination Committee, of the International Cooperation Department at the General Prosecutor’s Office, and my UNODC colleagues for all the efforts and resources provided to gather all of us here today and facilitate the implementation of our common project.

I wish you a productive and successful workshop. Thank you.