The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice CCPCJ 2018
GLO.ACT Side Event

**CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGIES AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING: THE
EXPERIENCE OF COLOMBIA**
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Welcoming national authorities from Colombia and other countries
represented at the CCPCJ, colleagues from UNODC Headquarters and other
Field Offices.

Greetings.

I am delighted on behalf of UNODC to welcome you all at this Side Event organized by the Government of Colombia and the UNODC Global Action against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants, GLO.ACT

UNODC has long history of cooperation with the Government of Colombia working on issues of common interest. In this opportunity I would like to highlight the work that we are doing together to prevent and combat trafficking in persons.

Human trafficking is a crime and serious human rights violation that also involves organized criminal networks in points of origin, transit and destination among multiple countries. According to the latest UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, over 500 international routes for trafficking were identified with victims from 137 nationalities. So no country is immune to trafficking in persons.

In Colombia, the Attorney General Office indicated that between December 2015 and June 2017, 195 victims of this crime were identified. And those are the ones detected or identified but may not correspond to the actual number of victims being trafficked and exploited.

The nature and complexity of Human Trafficking requires a comprehensive response that is evidence-based driven. Interventions such as GLO.ACT take these complexities and realities into account. It addresses them through specific and holistic actions on prevention, protection and prosecution. It does so in coordination and cooperation with relevant actors and responding to needs and gaps identified.

In the case of Colombia, these actions are being implemented following recommendations contained in a country assessment built in 2016 by GLO.ACT and endorsed by national authorities.

Crime prevention and prosecution were two main areas suggested in the assement for strengthening the role of national authorities to effectively fight trafficking in persons. In this scenario, and with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we approached the Attorney General Office in 2017 and built together a strategic alliance to ensure better prevention and prosecution under national law and international standards. Our response is then evidence-based driven and built in national and international standards.

In 2018 the Attorney General Office asked us to support the design and launch of a new communication strategy. The objective is to raise awareness and at the same time call for action. It focuses on detection and identification of potential victims of trafficking and vulberable migrants in transit locations such as airports, bus terminals and border control check points. It also foresees the development of a referral mechanism for protection and assistance of victims of trafficking.

This initiative, called #NotReal #Esoescuento (a false tale), which will be explained later in detail, focuses on women and girls at risk of being sexually exploited by traffickers. According to the official statistics, women and girls are the victims in 86% of the trafficking cases.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the European Union for its generous support to GLO.ACT. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the Government of Colombia and colleagues in HQ, both of which played a major role in making this side event possible.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.