

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

**CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGIES AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING: THE
EXPERIENCE OF COLOMBIA**

Vienna, 16 May, 2018

Good Afternoon

First of all I would like to express my gratitude to the Government of Colombia; UNODC colleagues here in Vienna and Bogota and the European Union for making this Side Event event possible.

As the National Project Officer for GLO.ACT implementation in Colombia and in addition to what was mentioned by our Country Representative and the GLO.ACT Project Coordinator; we would like to highlight our strategic alliance with the Attorney General Office to promote awareness raising on trafficking in persons among authorities that are in positions to better identify cases; in a first moment during 2017 with 300 prosecutors in 8 Colombian cities and now in 2018 in the framework of the the new awareness initiative #EsoEsCuento #NotReal focused to a specific target group.

The Interagency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) is a policy forum mandated by the UN General Assembly to improve coordination among UN agencies and other relevant international organizations to facilitate a holistic and comprehensive approach to preventing and combating trafficking in persons, including protection and support for victims of trafficking. ICAT has recommended the increase in the level of awareness of risks and responses through the following steps

- Establishing existing levels of awareness among the target population
- Identifying the desired actions to be taken by the target population as a result of raised awareness
- Identifying and addressing barriers to the target group taking these desired actions
- Articulating the linkages between these desired actions and an impact on trafficking in persons
- Assessing the outcomes of interventions

Considering that and as part of our alliance with the Attorney General Office we created a working group to plan and decide how our joint actions under GLO.ACT could fulfil these recommendations. This working group is composed of UNODC Colombia and the Group on Trafficking in Persons, Sexual Violence and Child issues at the Attorney General Office and led by Mr. Mario Gomez present here.

During the last year and with support from GLO.ACT, we jointly implemented a series of round tables with 300 prosecutors in 8 cities, namely, Bogota, Pereira, Medellin, Cali, Bucaramanga, Villavicencio, Ibagué and Barranquilla.

Those round tables were designed taking into account a baseline elaborated by the Attorney General's office in those places where it is possible to match the lower number of cases identified during 2016 and the number of prosecutors with responsibilities to investigate human trafficking with the aim to increase the level of awareness and provide them with tools to promote investigations under national and international standards. We are now monitoring if the level of new cases under investigation are increasing between January and June 2018 as a result of this action.

In parallel, we are now working together with the #NotReal campaign, with many expectations in terms of how this evidence based initiative focus on women and girls can increase the level of awareness and produce first responder mechanisms to prevent cases in transit areas such as bus terminals and airports considering the important alliance with Avianca the main airline in Colombia and one of the largest in the Americas. GLO.ACT is prepared to support this initiative turning it into a tool to produce changes on the way that people **act to protect** in this particular cases.

Thank you very much.