

Press Release

Regional Conference on Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants, 16-17 September 2019

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), under the framework of the Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants in Asia and the Middle East ([GLO.ACT – Asia and the Middle East](#)), organized a regional conference to combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and the Smuggling of Migrants (SOM). Commencing at **09:00 am**, the two-day conference is taking place from **16 to 17 September 2019 at the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad, Pakistan**.

[GLO.ACT-Asia and the Middle East](#) is a four year (2018-2022) joint initiative by the European Union (EU) and UNODC implemented in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in five countries in the region of Asia and Middle East, including Pakistan. The project reaffirms that combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling is of the highest importance for the EU and the United Nations as a whole.

In his speech, Mr. Jeremy Milson, Representative, UNODC Pakistan conveyed: “Increased cooperation among agencies at local and provincial level has lead to an increase in the number of prosecutions and arrest of traffickers and smugglers. New partners, such as the Pakistan Railways Police, identified during the implementation of GLO.ACT play an important role in controlling internal trafficking issues in Pakistan.”

Mr. Ahmed Mukkarram, Additional Director General Immigration, Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) said: “Committed to implementing FIA’s mandate, we have taken concrete steps which include the enactment of laws on Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants in May 2018 as well as the significant restructuring of the agency, leading to the establishment of several new anti-human trafficking circles across Pakistan.”

Highlighting the importance of civil society, Ms. Anne Marchal, Chargé d’Affaires a.i., Delegation of the European Union to Pakistan said: “International Organizations, NGOs, civil society, and relevant agencies should also play their part in supporting national efforts to combat trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling. The EU stands ready to continue its unwavering support to these efforts, which have been exemplified through the truly outstanding work carried out by GLO.ACT and its partner countries and the considerable progress which has been and will be made in eradicating and preventing these crimes.”

The regional conference took place in the presence of delegates from Afghanistan, Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Morocco and Nepal. Representatives from several embassies and high commissions, UN Agencies, international and national Organizations, civil society, private corporations and senior government officials from provincial police departments, Pakistan Railways Police, provincial line departments, academia and media will participate to reiterate their commitment towards combatting trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.

For further information or media enquiries please contact:

Ms Rizwana Asad

Communication Officer

Telephone: +92-51-2601461-2

Fax: + 92-51-2601469

Email: rizwana.asad@unodc.org

END