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CENTRE for GOVERNANCE RESEARCH

PAKISTAN

2021

UNTOC Constructive Dialogue: Trafficking in Persons: 4 October 2023

CGR Pakistan Statement: Tariq Khosa: Director/CEO

Distinguished Delegates: Human trafficking is unique in terms of three factors: One, it is against basic values of human dignity and amounts to slavery. Two, the suffering of victims causes irreparable losses to the individuals and their families. Three, it preys on the most vulnerable and weak i.e., women and children. Victims are most often coerced into the commercial sex market or forced labour.

Civil society in Pakistan has played an effective role of advocacy that resulted in ratification of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol by the Government of Pakistan after the launch of UNTOC Review Pilot Initiative in Islamabad in September 2022.

Trafficking in Persons (TIP) has both national and international dimensions. There is an emerging global consensus that the traditional approach of source, transition and destination countries needs to be revisited and the emphasis must shift on human trafficking being a domestic criminal threat and then an international criminal concern. This is where the national, regional and global strategies and action plans become extremely relevant for developing a meaningful implementation framework.

For the purpose of this dialogue, the following three proposals are submitted for consideration by the Member States:

1. National strategies against serious and organized crimes like human trafficking should reflect concerted state and society responses to the emerging threats and challenges; these should be proactive rather than reactive and focus on addressing the root causes of exploitation of the vulnerable communities.
2. The Member States should focus on breaking the nexus between corruption and human trafficking. The corrupt practices of the state agencies involved in dealing with transnational organized crime need to be curbed firmly. Both internal and external accountability mechanisms

Islamabad:

#38-W, Khalid Plaza, 1st Floor,
Jinnah Avenue, Blue Area, Islamabad
Phone: 051-2870852 & 2870853

CGR



Lahore:

22, Tipu Block,
New Garden Town, Lahore
Phone: 042-35831352

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are required. Internal Affairs Division in each law enforcement agency must be created and strengthened. Anti-corruption units should be embedded in all the agencies and stakeholders dealing with human trafficking.

3. Public awareness, education, poverty alleviation, social justice, human rights perspectives are as important as effective law enforcement, border management, corruption-free state machinery, and the rule of law.

In conclusion, we hope that the UN Convention and Protocols against transnational organized crime, including human trafficking, will be implemented in their true letter and spirit through an effective institutional mechanism involving both the state and society.

Thank you.

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