

## **Working Group on the Smuggling of Migrants**

### **How to strengthen the capacity to prosecute cases of smuggling of migrants**

#### ***Brazilian intervention***

Thank you for giving me the floor, Mr Chair,

It is the Brazilian opinion that the non-criminalization of migration should be at the heart of States' understanding of this topic. Smuggled migrants must have their human rights respected and should receive appropriate attention, including legal assistance, particularly in the case of unaccompanied minors. In this sense, it should be emphasized that combating migrant smuggling cannot become a fight against migration itself, nor should it be subordinated to strictly security concerns. The security of the borders of States must be done in such a way as not to infringe the rights of those who cross them.

The Brazilian national policy of combating human trafficking involves all levels of government, as well as civil society, academia and the private sector. The national experience confirms the need for high coordination between the different actors, as well as extensive data and information sharing.

It is in line with the Brazilian actions, at national and international levels, in combating smuggling of migrants, that country participates in the different thematic groups under the umbrella of the

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), through which the country maintains close contact with technical work teams and with authorities from different countries responsible for combating migrant smuggling. I should also like to recall the Brazilian participation in INTERPOL, through the Federal Police, thanks to which there is a large exchange of information on ongoing investigations in different parts of the globe. Underlining the importance of cooperation between the different countries, within the Framework of the United Nations and INTERPOL, in combating migrant smuggling, Brazil considers it appropriate for member states to use INTERPOL's existing channels and capabilities and would like to leave this as a recommendation.

There is, in fact, an intense exchange of information about ongoing investigations, but the above-mentioned participation is not exhausted in this activity. Interpol's Vulnerable Communities Sub-Directorate in Lyon/France has been organizing and implementing a sequence of global actions to combat migrant smuggling, human trafficking and related crimes. Brazil, with the Federal Police, participates fully in all of them in a leading role. Brazil hosted, at the invitation of INTERPOL, because of its past performance, the Operational Coordination Unit of one of the actions.

Mr. Chair,

I would like to emphasise operations TURQUOISE I and II, WEKA and LIBERTERRA, which have engaged dozens of countries, from various continents. In addition to the dismantling of international criminal organizations that operated in the context of the crime reported above, INTERPOL's operations were able to to strengthen the networking of specialised police forces in the prevention and repression of illicit activities. With each operation carried out, there are improvements. Brazil, given its proven capabilities, continues with other initiatives. I can also mention, as an example, the recent approval by AMERIPOL of the proposal to create, in our

country, an International Center to Combat Smuggling of Migrants. This approval stems from an idea conceived by the Federal Police. This denotes the strong engagement that Brazil has in the matter and the main role it exercises in the combat on screen.

I can also highlight the country's experience in establishing an integrated operations centre at the Brazil-Argentina-Paraguay Triple Border. It is an inter-agency articulation mechanism in which police officers from various security agencies and countries work together, allowing the sharing of intelligence information and the realisation of joint operations. The goal of the initiative is to create unique control of border operations centre to be replicated in other borders.

To end my intervention, I would like to note the creation of the Network of Centres for Combating Trafficking in Persons (NETP) and Outposts for Humanized Care to Migrants (PAAHM), the latter located in the main points of entry in Brazil for the reception of migrants, in particular those deported and inadmitted. NETP are units at the state level responsible for the management of the local policies and the decentralization of national actions, and PAAHM are service structures, offering, according to each case, a humanized reception and referral to the local support network.

Thank you,