Thank you, Chair.

Brazil recognizes the importance of joint investigations and international cooperation in the fight against trafficking in persons.

Throughout the years 2017 to 2019, the Federal Public Defender’s Office (DPU), under the initiative of the Working Group on Assistance to Victims of Trafficking in Persons, carried out projects on international human trafficking.

In partnership with UNODC and the EU - within the scope of the GLO.Act project, we developed a project to assist migrants and prevent human trafficking in the states of Mato Grosso do Sul (region of the Corumbá border); Roraima, Amazonas and Pará.

Brazil’s Public Defender’s Office also signed a memorandum of understanding with its Bolivian counterpart to take measures to prevent trafficking in persons and assist victims in the cross-border region of the State of Mato Grosso.

Measures were also taken in the specialized meeting of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) to deal with procedural legal cooperation measures in the crime of trafficking in persons.

On July 2019 Brazil and Paraguay created the first Joint Investigation Team (JIT) to fight transnational human trafficking between the two countries with duration set for one year. A new JIT is due to be signed in the coming days.

The first Joint Investigative Team (JIT) brought some experience that will be useful for the efficiency of the future working group, especially the perception of the indispensability of a previous and joint action plan, as well as greater contact and articulation between JIT members, in addition to a work period more consistent with the demands presented.

On May 2020, the Mercosul’s Framework Agreement for Constitution of Joint Investigative Teams entered into force.

Mr. Chair,

In human trafficking investigations, timing and fast tracks are essential to save lives. We recommend that States Parties strive to ensure that their judicial systems have
enough flexibility to recognize evidences obtained by varied technological tools to expedite police work and criminal prosecution related to trafficking in persons.

Understanding the difference between investigation systems is very important. In Brazil, for example, the federal police has the legal mandate to conduct investigations independently and in direct contact with judicial authorities and may conduct international cooperation without going through the prosecutor’s office. We recommend that States Parties consider that understanding investigative systems in place in each country and respecting them is essential to create and develop joint investigations teams in criminal investigations.

Thank you!