

**11th Session of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons
(Vienna, 12-13 October 2021)**

**Bangladesh Statement by H.E. Mr. Muhammad Abdul Muhith,
Ambassador & Permanent Representative**

**under Agenda Item 2: Successful strategies for addressing the use of
technology to facilitate trafficking in persons and to prevent and investigate
trafficking in persons**

Madam Chair,

Thank you for giving me the floor.

At first, I would like to thank the panelists for their thoughtful presentations. I also thank the Secretariat for the background papers for this Session.

Madam Chair,

Being among the top source countries for migration, Bangladesh is concerned about the increasing challenge posed by human trafficking.

Among other initiatives to respond, Bangladesh passed the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act in 2012 and its three implementing Rules in 2017, acceded to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in July 2011, and acceded to the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the Transnational Organized Crime Convention in September 2019. In addition, Bangladesh adopted the Overseas Employment and Migrants Act in 2013 and also ratified the ILO core conventions on forced labour. At the moment, the Government of Bangladesh is implementing an extensive National Plan of Action for Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking 2018-2022 which was developed and is being implemented in a participatory and inclusive manner, involving a wide range of stakeholders.

Madam Chair,

In a fast changing world, we believe it is of critical importance for policy makers and practitioners to understand the emerging trends in human trafficking, including the use of cyberspace and advanced technologies, and to respond accordingly. In Bangladesh, we have taken various initiatives in this regard, including ongoing digitization of the judiciary and use of appropriate

technologies in prevention, detection and investigation of trafficking-related cases. We are now able to track digital footprints of traffickers, including their financial transactions, through cyber technologies and smart mobile applications. Among our various international, regional and bilateral collaborations, we are also working closely with UNODC to prevent and combat human trafficking. Bangladesh, with the support from GLO.ACT Project, is conducting a National Study on Trafficking in Persons currently, which - we believe - will help us to better understand the present situation utilising quantitative and qualitative data collection and will provide insight into the extent and characteristics of trafficking in persons, assisting in the development of future programmes and interventions by the national authorities, including appropriate technological response.

Madam Chair,

Taking cue from the recommendations contained in the background document prepared by the Secretariat, we would like to stress on the following:

- identify and address gaps in legal systems to ensure the effective investigation and prosecution of technology-facilitated trafficking in persons and ensure that legal frameworks keep pace with technological developments, including protection from trafficking activities occurring online;
- increasingly adopt a gender- and child-sensitive perspective into strategies to address the nexus between technology and trafficking in persons; and
- strengthen the expertise and the capacity of law enforcement agencies in conducting efficient investigations and operations in cyberspace, seizing appropriate electronic evidence and using available technology tools.

Madam Chair,

Before I conclude, I would like to reiterate Bangladesh's firm commitment to the effective and full implementation of the UNTOC and the TIP Protocol.

My delegation wishes this important Session of the Working Group successful deliberations and a fruitful outcome.

Thank you.