



PERMANENT MISSION OF HUNGARY
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**Preparing for 2017 Review of the Global Plan of Action to Combat
Trafficking in Persons: How to Bring Partners and Ideas Together?**

NO-NONSENSE WORKING ROUNDTABLE

**UN Headquarters, Conference Room 8
Monday, December 5, 2016, 3-4.30 pm**

**Statement by
H.E. Ambassador Katalin Bogyay
Permanent Representative**

Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for joining us today for this important roundtable discussion that Hungary proudly cosponsors.

Let me start my statement with a quote: *“The Global Plan of Action gave the international community a powerful sense of direction in the fight against human trafficking. We now need to recalibrate our approach. But it is a question of simply adjusting our present direction, not throwing away the compass. The goal remains the same. We must rid the world of the suffering caused by human trafficking.”*

These words have been said by Mr Yury Fedotov, Executive-Director of the UNODC in 2013, during the previous high-level meeting on the Global Plan of Action.

I believe Mr Fedotov’s words are also true in 2016.

Mr. Fedotov in 2013 also said that *“We are dealing with a crime of the 21st century: adaptive, cynical, sophisticated; existing in developed and developing countries alike”*. If that’s the case, our response must also be of the 21st century. If we want to win this fight, we have to apply modern, innovative, sophisticated and adaptable approaches, we should utilize the findings of new research, and we should also use the latest technology.

The four key goals of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (namely prevention, protection, prosecution, and strengthening partnerships) are as crucial and valid today as they were in 2010. However, as a result of the developments of recent years, our approach must be recalibrated and our direction has to be adjusted.

But, Ladies and Gentlemen, what developments are we talking about?

First and foremost, the world leaders in 2015 adopted the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** with the view to ensure that “no one will be left behind”.

As we heard it so many times in recent months, SDG 8.7 specifically calls for the eradication of forced labour, ending modern slavery and human trafficking, and securing the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour.

Member States also committed themselves “to eliminate human trafficking and sexual and other exploitation” (in Target 5.2), “to promote labour rights and safe and secure working environment” (in Target 8.8), and “to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children” (in Target 16.2). Plus in Goal 17, we – Member States – also called for establishing global and multi-stakeholder partnerships to support the achievement of the SDGs.

Another important development is that the **Security Council** in December 2015, on the excellent initiative by the US – held its first debate on the topic of trafficking in persons in conflict situations. It is also likely – let’s keep our fingers crossed – that the Council will celebrate the first anniversary of last year’s debate by adopting a resolution on this topic.

There are many other developments. Thanks to the increased attention by member states, the media, the general public, we hear a lot more often about this global challenge and the shocking number of victims of different forms of modern day slavery. **Global awareness** has been increased thanks to the Yazidi Nadia Murad and other survivors who were ready to share their stories with the world. Important policy reports and studies have been prepared, for instance by the UN University, the Freedom Fund and others. Journals like the New York Times, television channels such as the CNN, movies like *Sold* focus on this topic. We – member states – as well as UN agencies and NGOs organized numerous side events and other meetings to discuss various aspects of this complex global challenge.

A few months ago, the ILO launched its **Alliance 8.7** initiative to assist all UN member states to achieve SDG 8.7 and other related goals. UNODC – in cooperation with the European Union – also started an important new programme, the so-called **GLO.ACT**, the Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants. And the list could be continued.

In order to be able to elaborate a result-oriented and policy-relevant outcome document for the 2017 Review of the Global Plan of Action, we all, and in particular the facilitators yet to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly to lead this process, will need to **take into account these developments**.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since the objective of today's roundtable is to identify a pool of ideas to help the President and the work of his facilitators in the coming months, let me share a number of thoughts that I suggest to take into account:

I believe the review process should be used primarily to **align the Global Plan of Action with Agenda 2030** and the Sustainable Development Goals. Neither the review, nor the implementation of the Global Plan of Action should take place in a vacuum, but within the frameworks created by the SDGs.

In this context, we could explore whether and how the **High-Level Political Forum** which is the UN's central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development could be utilized to assist the preparations for the 2017 Review of the Global Plan of Action.

Since the next High-Level Political Forum will take place from 10 to 19 July 2017, some discussions could take place on the margin of this event and focus specifically on SDGs 8.7, 5.2 and 16.2. This would allow States and relevant stakeholders to express their views on topics relevant for the review of the Global Plan of Action and thus contribute to the success of the process.

We propose that one of the panel discussions of the high-level meeting to be convened in October 2017 should focus on the theme "Implementing SDGs 8.7, 5.2 and 16.2 through **strengthened coordination and partnerships** within the UN system and beyond".

We should also explore how the views of the civil society, academia, and other key stakeholders could be channelled into this process. Creating an **online platform** where such a discussion could take place should be considered. Perhaps the Alliance 8.7 website could be used for such purposes.

Studies, policy-relevant issue papers and background documents on relevant sub-topics such as financing, role of private sector, how to improve inter-agency coordination, etc. should be prepared well in advance and in collaboration among the key actors. I believe both the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) and Alliance 8.7 could play key roles in this context.

As regards the substance, I believe the review process should not limit its focus to human trafficking only, but it should **cover all other forms of modern slavery** listed in the SDGs. In addition, it should also deal with the issue of trafficking in persons and other forms of modern slavery in conflict and post-conflict situations; pay attention to the **specific needs of women, children, religious and other minorities**; and recognize that while law enforcement tools are important, they are not sufficient.

Special emphasis should also be placed on the **needs of the victims** and on prevention.

Since ILO, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women, the relevant Special Rapporteurs and Special Representatives, and other UN entities **all play crucial roles** in the areas just mentioned, the relevance of the activities carried out by these actors – in addition to those by the UNODC – will need to be recognized in the final outcome document and their more **active involvement and participation** already in the review process would be desirable.

It should also be explored **what role ICAT could play** in drafting the reports requested from the Secretary-General by the General Assembly and the Security Council, and how ICAT members could contribute more proactively to the preparation of such reports in order to ensure that the views of all relevant actors are reflected and to facilitate **system-wide coherence**.

The review should also provide an opportunity to reflect on questions such as how the number of **ratifications** of key legal instruments, such as the Palermo Protocol and the ILO Convention and Protocol on Forced Labour could be increased and how their effective **implementation** could be ensured. Given that ensuring **accountability** for these crimes is essential, the review should also explore the reasons behind the number of prosecutions remaining so shockingly low despite the fact that most countries have proper legislation to combat human trafficking

And finally, let me point out that **data is key!** It would be highly desirable if by the high-level meeting to be convened in October 2017, we could have as precise, complete and comprehensive data as possible about trafficking in persons, forced labour and other forms of modern slavery. In this context, we commend the UNODC, ILO and the Walk Free Foundation for partnering with each other and we encourage them to further strengthen and broaden their collaboration.

Thank you for your attention.