

STATEMENT BY MR. DILIP SINHA, ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, AT THE SECOND
MINISTERIAL LUNCHON MEETING OF GROUP OF FRIENDS UNITED AGAINST HUMAN
TRAFFICKING ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2011

Allow me begin by thanking Foreign Minister of Belarus H.E. Mr. Sergei Martynov for organizing the luncheon meeting. I also commend the important coordinating and steering role played by delegation of Belarus in New York for the successful adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons.

It is heartening to see that for the first time an agreement of the international community has been reached to address the scourge of trafficking in persons in a more holistic and comprehensive manner so as to ensure that human trafficking policies are integrated, balanced, coherent, result-oriented and people centric,

We welcome the lunch of the Global Plan of Action in 2010. This is an essential tool and yet another opportunity for the international community to recommit ourselves to fight this crime in a more coordinated and cooperative manner. The 4 Ps of preventing, protecting, prosecuting and partnership is a new clarion call in this fight, which needs to be adhered to and implemented.

The new element of partnership is crucial, as it points to be non-exclusiveness of Member States in this fight; instead it calls for an inclusive approach of all stakeholders, private sector and international organizations to work more closely in a cooperative and coordinated manner to tackle this menace.

Friends,

India is and will remain committed towards a world free of human tracking, a heinous and abhorrent crime, our struggle against trafficking is well known. Our commitment to address the problem of trafficking in persons is well reflected in various national legislations and policies, including our obligation under regional and international mechanisms to which India is party to.

At the level of policy implementation, we have developed strategies which are holistic, participative and inclusive and are not restricted to direct intervention against trafficking only.

Anti-Trafficking Nodal Cells have been set up both at the Central and the provincial levels. We are adopting a victim-centric approach to these issues. We are working with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime for strengthening law enforcement responses in

India against trafficking in persons. Training and capacity building are being enhanced. A comprehensive scheme for prevention of trafficking, rescue, rehabilitation, reintegration and repatriation of the victims of commercial sexual exploitation is already in existence.

India also seeks to eradicate the menace through empowering the vulnerable sections of our society, who are its potential victims. This is also one of the core objectives of this Global Plan.

We are concerned at the growing scale worldwide of tracking of persons and recognize the complexities involved in dealing with this issue. We will continue to work in close cooperation with Belarus and other members of the Group of Friends in any future activities of the Group of Friends in the United Nations.

Thanking you,

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