

**Statement by H.E. Alexis Bethancourt Yau,**  
**Minister of Public Security of the Republic of Panama**  
**at the “High level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the**  
**United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons”**  
**on behalf of the**  
**Human Security Network**  
**27 September 2017**

- (1) I have the honour to speak on behalf of the members of the Human Security Network, a cross-regional Network composed of Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, Norway, Slovenia, Switzerland, Thailand, South Africa as an observer, and my own country Panama. The Human Security Network is an informal group of States that advocates a people-centred, holistic approach to security, complementing the more traditional understanding of national and international security.
- (2) Human trafficking violates and impairs the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and constitutes a crime that exploits persons, enslaving them in forced labour, domestic servitude or sexual exploitation among others. In our interconnected world, we continue to face this serious challenge to humanity and must address its impact on all persons, especially on women and children.
- (3) The Network recognizes the importance that Members of the United Nations attach to developing policies, programmes and strategies to prevent and combat trafficking in persons including its incorporation of this threat in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the concerted implementation of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons. Hence, we welcome the convening of this High-level Meeting today as well as the adoption of the political declaration which will serve as a foundation for our common action to end this crime wherever it may occur.
- (4) In this regard, the Network underlines the importance of the universal ratification and implementation of international legally-binding instruments in addressing these crimes including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.
- (5) We also wish to highlight the value-added contribution of the human security approach in combating trafficking in persons. The holistic and contextual nature of the human security approach is well-placed to address the unbalanced impact from trafficking in persons on vulnerable groups, particularly women and children. This approach, which places humans at the centre, is also conducive to promoting partnership, coordination, and coherence in our efforts. As such, we welcome the work of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as its coordinator.

- (6) Given the minimal global resources to fight trafficking in persons, we also support and urge other Member States to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, established by the Global Plan of Action as well as the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security which could support projects combating trafficking in persons.
- (7) We remain deeply concerned of the threat from this serious crime which affects international security and is a global challenge.

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