



MISSÃO PERMANENTE DE PORTUGAL JUNTO DA ORGANIZAÇÃO DAS NAÇÕES UNIDAS

High Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Appraisal of the Global Action Plan against trafficking in human beings

New York, 27 of april 2017

Mr. President, Excellences,

Portugal is fully committed with the prevention and fight against trafficking in persons.

We welcome the Political Declaration that was adopted at this General Assembly on the appraisal of the Global Action Plan against trafficking in human beings. Portugal is proud to have co-facilitated together with Cape Verde the very first Global Action Plan in 2010; all of our actions are in line with the most relevant international human rights instruments and development frameworks, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Since 2012, Portugal is part of The Global awareness Blue Heart Campaign against Human Trafficking, and we proudly use the blue heart ever since in all national campaigns and actions.

In spite of all the anti-trafficking initiatives developed in Portugal over the last decade, much more remains to be done, in face of such a complex, multidimensional and constantly changing phenomena.

Portugal is currently starting to prepare our 4th National Action Plan, which will consolidate a victims' and gender-based approach already contained in our 1st Action Plan.

Portugal provides support to all victims of trafficking in persons – both national and foreign. Victims have the right to subsistence, access to a



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suitable and urgent medical treatment, psychological assistance, protection, translation and interpretation services, as well as legal free advice under the stipulations of the law. Portugal has three Shelters that provide support to women and men identified as victims of trafficking, regardless of their nationality, age, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, marital status, political orientation, socio-economic aspects or any other status. This support is also extended to minor children of the victims.

The implementation of the Support and Protection Network for Victims of Trafficking (RAPVT) was a decisive factor to improve consolidation and coordination between government institutions, such as the police forces, justice system amongst others, and civil society, at the level of intervention with victims of trafficking. This network provides a mechanism of cooperation and information sharing amongst stakeholders for purposes of prevention, protection and reintegration of victims of trafficking in human beings. This is particularly relevant in what regards children, as they are disproportionately vulnerable to trafficking in persons.

The creation, in 2008, of the Observatory of Trafficking in Human Beings, has allowed Portugal to reinforce its national referral mechanisms and consolidate data collection systems and the exchange of information for the development of evidence-based policies. We need to know how to intervene.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, all member states hold the collective responsibility in combating this heinous crime. To do so we need, to cooperate and implement all the four “P’s” – prevention, protection, prosecution, and most importantly, partnerships, as they will allow us to be one step ahead of the criminal networks and traffickers responsible for this global scourge.