

Remarks by Aad BIESEBROEK, Head of Cooperation of the European Union Delegation to
Zambia and COMESA

4th Symposium on Human Trafficking in Zambia

25-26th June 2014

Intercontinental Hotel, Lusaka

Honourable Vice President, Mr. Guy Scott, MP

The Permanent Secretary Ministry of Home Affairs

Acting UN Resident Coordinator, Simon Camelbeeck

The Chief of Mission IOM, Dr. Andrew Choga

UNICEF Resident Representative, Dr. Hamid el Bashir

UNHCR Country Representative, Ms. Laura Lo Castro

Senior Government officials,

Representatives of the media

Distinguished invited guests

All protocols observed

I am very pleased to be here today at the opening of this 4th Symposium of Human Trafficking in Zambia.

Trafficking in human beings is a serious crime and a gross **violation of human rights**. It is very often linked with organised crime and is considered as one of the most profitable criminal activities worldwide.

Trafficking is different from irregular migration or the smuggling of irregular migrants. Once having crossed the border, a trafficked migrant is further exploited in coercive or inhuman

conditions. People are trafficked for the purpose of sexual and labour exploitation or the removal of organs. Women and children are particularly affected: women and girls represent 56 % of victims of forced economic exploitation and 98 % of victims of forced commercial sexual exploitation. Children are also trafficked and exploited for begging or illegal activities, such as petty theft.

The **EU's approach** to trafficking begins from a gender and human rights perspective and focuses on prevention, prosecution of criminals and protection of victims. The ambition of the European Union is to establish an inter-sectorial framework to manage migration in a coherent way, through political dialogue and close practical cooperation with third countries. We are seeking closer ties with international organisations to share ideas, improve strategic planning and avoid duplication.

This approach is reinforced by the adoption of the EU's renewed **Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM) in November 2011**, which provides the overarching framework of EU's renewed external migration policy with a stronger emphasis on promoting well-managed mobility, enhancing the development benefits of migration, strengthening international protection and promoting the human rights of migrants.

The EU support at regional and country level has allowed migration to become an integral part of a number of national and regional development strategies. Several partner countries and regions have been given support to develop and implement their own migration strategies, to gather and analyse migration data through the development of Migration Profiles, and to build up the capacity of the relevant institutions.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Turning to the specific case of Zambia, the EU is aware that various groups, with different profiles and needs, are travelling as part of irregular mixed movements through and to Zambia. These groups include unaccompanied and separated children, asylum-seekers and refugees, stranded migrants and victims of trafficking.

The EU therefore works with the Government of Zambia and with Cooperating partners to help addressing the trafficking problems the country is facing.

From 2009 to 2012 the EU supported Zambia through the United Nations Joint Programme on Human Trafficking implemented by IOM, ILO and UNICEF. The 1.6 million EURO (11 million ZMW) programme aimed at providing support to the Government of Zambia in implementing the policy and the national plan of action against human trafficking. The objective of the programme was to reduce the incidence of human trafficking as well as to build capacity amongst public officials, service providers and non-state actors to detect and respond to cases of trafficking.

Since December 2012 the **EU contributes** to the joint effort of UNICEF, IOM and UNHCR, to **combat human trafficking and exploitation** among some 10,000 migrant children and asylum seekers in Zambia. The EU's contribution amounts to **2 million EUR** (14 million ZMW).

July last year, I had the pleasure to participate at the official launch of the programme and today's event is also part of this programme.

The three-year programme builds on the existing efforts of the government of Zambia and UN agencies to address vulnerability and increase **protection for children** and other persons of concern at high risk of trafficking and exploitation because of their migration status.

After the first year of implementation, we can already acknowledge some results:

- Various useful tools have been published, such as **guidelines, trainers manuals, and a participation handbook**. **Profiling forms** have been established to facilitate capacity building of first line officials to implement 'protection-sensitive processes, procedures and systems', with the aim of effectively responding to the needs of vulnerable migrants in Zambia.
- **Technical assistance is provided to the Department of Immigration** for improved data collection and analysis on cross-border movement.
- So far **78 children received protective services** such as counselling, medical assistance, shelter under the same project.

We are confident that will see more concrete results. This symposium will provide the necessary push to all the relevant stakeholders to have a good understanding of the extent of human trafficking and what joint efforts can be undertaken to successfully reduce the vulnerabilities of migrants.

On behalf of the EU, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our partners for their work and their commitment to eradicate Human Trafficking in Zambia and to protect migrants.

I would like to conclude wishing you productive deliberations during the next two days.

Thank you.