

On Belarusian initiative to form Global Partnership against Slavery and Trafficking in Human Beings in the 21st century

In recent years the problem of human trafficking has come to be perceived in Belarus as a significant social threat. Prompt and decisive measures were taken at the highest state level. Yet international cooperation and close coordination of international efforts in fighting this crime remain critical factors to make these efforts a success.

At the UN Summit in September 2005 the President of Belarus spoke of the need to address the issue of human trafficking in the most comprehensive manner and, specifically, to consider the possibilities of steps to eradicate the demand for trafficked victims.

During general debate of the General Assembly the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belarus maintained this line and proposed to consider the idea of establishing a **Global Partnership against Slavery and Trafficking in Human Beings in the 21st century**.

The main objective of this initiative is to **improve coordination of efforts of all actors in the field**. There's a need for **a more comprehensive approach** of the international community to the problem of human trafficking. First and foremost – the need **to unite the efforts of the countries of origin, transit and destination** in order to get a targeted and organised response to the challenges posed by human trafficking.

The idea of a Global Partnership takes due account of the following determinants:

- pursuing increased **criminalisation** of trafficking;
- countering and creatively curtailing the **demand** for trafficked victims;
- effective **protection** and **reintegration** of victims;
- a constant focus on the eradication of the **root causes of trafficking**;
- comprehensive **capacity-building** at the national level to suppress human trafficking and related criminal networks.

The **proposed plan of action** consists of some initial and medium-term steps which, if implemented, may lead to the establishment of a functioning network of contacts, support and coordination of the Global Partnership.

- Formation of a **core group** of interested states, UN agencies and non-governmental organisations to advance the human trafficking agenda within the United Nations and other international organisations and fora. This group could regularly consult on the topical issues of combating human trafficking in New York, Geneva and Vienna as well as at international conferences and meetings.

- Creation of a **task force** as a first step towards the establishment of an **interagency working group** under the chairmanship of a special advisor of the United Nations Secretary-General.

- Considering the idea to include a **new item on the agenda of the General Assembly** “Trafficking in human beings”

- Elaboration of an **omnibus resolution** on this issue in the United Nations General Assembly.