

Conclusions of the Thematic Meeting

- Promote an approach which is (I) **comprehensive** including gender issues, human rights, etc., (II) **multidisciplinary** (i.e. measures to combat human trafficking must be linked to those against child labour) and (III) **harmonised** with all the common norms and standards while taking into account local issues and realities.
- Place the victim and the protection of his or her rights, safety and dignity at the heart of the fight against human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants whilst paying particular attention to minors.
- Set an agenda of **international cooperation** in addition to **regional cooperation**, including cross referral mechanisms, judicial assistance, revision of bilateral agreements and cooperation and exchange of best practices.
- Create or reinforce multi-stakeholder, **national coordination structures**, such as national commissions and convert these into referral mechanisms. Another key task is the nomination of focal points and connecting them through committees or liaison offices. These structures, platforms and networks must be inclusive and at the same time integrate national institutions, including national agencies, the local level (local communities), civil society, religious organisations, local traditional and customary authorities, etc. Emphasis must be placed on coordination, and organisational and systemic capacities.
- Contribute to the **reinforcement of the rule of law** by creating and implementing coherent and up-to-date national and regional legislative frameworks. Moreover, the ratification of protocols pertaining to them and their implementation is essential.
- **Monitor and evaluate** policies and measures against human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants on a regular basis by relying on methods and approaches which measure and ensure progress and results, such as regional mechanisms for peer review (i.e. the analysis of reports).
- Put in place **communication and awareness-raising measures** by involving all stakeholders such as the media or the private sector (formal and informal) and target priority geographical areas such as border areas. In order to find adequate channels of communication, it is vital to refine migrant profiles, especially in the case of human trafficking.

- Improve **data collection and processing**. Targeted data bases should be developed, in line with the judicial system. The role of observatories is also essential and their networking is paramount.
- Share and manage **information**. It is necessary, among other things, to target the sharing of information on the modus operandi of networks in order to dismantle, pursue and facilitate the evaluation of risk and threats. Investigation methods must be developed, transposed and reinforced through training, availability of specialised manuals and other tools.
- Improve **police and judicial cooperation** in order to conduct investigations and successful prosecutions. Intensify enforcement against smugglers and traffickers and all forms of transnational criminal activity. Reform justice systems; provide training for prosecutors and magistrates on human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants. Create specialised police units.
- Incorporate the following elements into the current measures for the **protection and reintegration of victims** in order to ensure a complete and holistic intervention: prevention, awareness-raising, education, training and certification (collaboration with specialised centres and teams), enquiries, partnerships, upgrading of skills, psycho-social care and administrative help. Develop direct and appropriate assistance for migrants in the case of migrant smuggling, such as medical assistance, finance, access to housing and assistance with voluntary return and reintegration.
- Recognise the importance of **measures which promote safe and legal migration** in the reduction of vulnerability to human trafficking and migrant smuggling. Alongside these measures, civil registers and reliable and quality identification documents play a key role.

The Rabat Process Support Project, with Niger and Portugal, and in collaboration with the EU, is committed to identifying priority and concrete actions based on these conclusions, and in coherence with the Valletta Action Plan and Rome Programme.

These priority actions will be communicated to the members of the CoPiL (Comité de Pilotage) [Steering Committee] and to the partners of the Process.

Regional technical training on the issue of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants is planned as part of the Rabat Process for the first quarter of 2016.