

DEBATE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
JUNE 3, 2008 – 10:00H – TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL CHAMBER  
TALKING POINTS

- Brazil's national policy against human trafficking is predicated on three key elements, namely, prevention, assistance to victims and repression. Those key elements can be found in the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking In Persons, Especially Women and Children. Brazil has been a pioneer in developing such national policy in Latin America. My Government, with the cooperation of UNODC, has mobilized public awareness to the problem of human trafficking, through the holding of a seminar. Its outcome, in turn, constituted our contribution to the preparation by UNODC of the Global Initiative Forum against Human Trafficking, which took place in Vienna, in February, 2008.

- Brazil understands that the combat against human trafficking must be accomplished not only through enforcement by police repression, but also by means of the adoption of policies aiming at prevention and, above all, at the protection of the victim. Following the elaboration of a National Policy to Fight Human Trafficking, in 2006, Brazil adopted, in 2008, a National Plan to Fight Human Trafficking, with the contribution of inputs from the civil society.

- Brazil has subscribed to the United Nations Convention against Organized Transnational Crime (Palermo Convention), which has an Additional Protocol only on human trafficking with a focus on prevention and protection to victims. That Convention also has another Additional Protocol on the subject of smuggling of migrants, which places emphasis on the repression of criminals that are involved in such crimes. Considering the convergence among Member States against human trafficking and the effort of some countries to impose more restrictive migration controls, the Brazilian Government supports initiatives aiming to combat human trafficking, be it for sexual exploitation, be it for forced labor, without prejudice to the citizen's right to seek better standards of living in other countries.

- Brazilian law and policies have also been inspired by other international instruments that are relevant to the protection of victims of human trafficking, such as those relating to human rights, racial discrimination, civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, torture and cruel punishment, child's rights, among others.

- In addressing the subject, the policy adopted by Brazil was elaborated in a cross-cutting manner and based upon National Plans that deal indirectly with issues related to human trafficking, such as those pertaining to Child and Adolescent Sexual Violence (2002), Eradication of Slave Work (2003), Policies for the Development of Women (2004),

Eradication of Child Work and Protection to the Adolescent Worker (2004) and on Family and Community Livelihood (2006).

- The Brazilian National Plan against Human Trafficking is also important as an instrument for the promotion of Millennium Development Goals, mainly for the achievement of the Third MDG, regarding gender equality and women empowerment.

- At the regional level, Brazil belongs to treaties and initiatives undertaken in MERCOSUL and in the Organization of American States. In 2005, the MERCOSUL countries and Associates signed the Montevideo Declaration against Human Trafficking, which provides for police cooperation as well as exchange of information, with a focus on human trafficking for prostitution. Such cooperation was intensified with the adoption in 2006 by MERCOSUL of the Plan of Action against Human Trafficking, which encourages and integrates informative campaigns, exchange of information, education of governmental and non-governmental actors, as well as assistance to victims.

- Finally, my delegation believes that Member States should give special attention to victims of human trafficking and cooperate in assisting them. We should also cooperate in the repression of those criminals that seek to exploit the vulnerable situation of those victims with the intent to make a profit. Brazil would be ready to share its experience with other Member States in tackling this problem and debate ways to enhance international cooperation on this important matter.