



Government and IOM Discussed Progress on Implementation of the National Action Plan on Combating Human Trafficking for 2016-2018

Ashgabat, 31 August 2018: The Round Table “Review on the Progress of the National Action Plan of Turkmenistan on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2016-2018” was organized by the Mission of International Organization for Migration in Turkmenistan (IOM) in close cooperation with the Government of Turkmenistan and supported by the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, U.S. Department of State. During the event, the report on the progress of the implementation of the National Action Plan of Turkmenistan on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for 2016-2018 (NAP) was presented to the members of the Interministerial Commission on Treaty Bodies and International Humanitarian Law.



Deputies of the key national ministries and the members of the national working group on combating human trafficking, senior diplomats, national public associations (NGOs), and UN agencies participated in the NAP review. Among the participants were also the representatives from governments and NGOs from Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Serbia, and Russian Federation – countries that implement similar NAPs or have experience in tackling the issue of trafficking.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Vepa Hajiev, Deputy Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan noted strong and fruitful cooperation between the government of Turkmenistan, national NGOs, international donors, and IOM that resulted in effective implementation of international obligations of the country in the area of combatting human trafficking. Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Vepa Hajiev also stressed that it is important to continue this work, and called for the participants of the review meeting to use this opportunity for identifying actions for the National Action Plan for the next period.

International expert presented the report on the NAP progress focusing on the obligations of Turkmenistan in the area of combating trafficking, significant achievements and success stories of the NAP. Final chapter of the report concentrated on the recommendations for the future NAP and elaborated on potential activities.

Another international expert who was engaged in implementation of the current NAP presented her views on the achievements of the NAP and challenges the national working group

experienced during its implementation. The expert underlined that such challenges as remaining collisions in the national legislation, the need for strengthening of the implementing agencies' capacities, the innovative character of some mechanisms, solutions, and systems developed during the first NAP would require further cooperation among the Government, national NGOs, and international community within the framework of the next NAP.

The round table served as a platform for experience sharing and discussions among the representatives of the government agencies and NGOs from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Serbia, who have implemented similar NAPs, found effective solutions for particular issues, and have accumulated substantial expertise in combatting human trafficking in their countries.

“IOM remains committed to assisting the Government of Turkmenistan in implementing its national action plans against trafficking, relying on critical support and guidance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, and other national ministries and agencies” – mentioned in his comments Mr. Azat Atajanov, Head of IOM Office in Turkmenistan. He continued saying: “This crucial work would be impossible without the support from the Government of the United States of America – long-term world leader in combatting human trafficking – and its agencies such as the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons of the U.S. Department of State and Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), and United States Agency for International Development. In its TIP projects IOM also relies on the support from the Government of Norway and national public organizations – playing important part in providing direct assistance to the trafficking victims and educating the population about the risks of trafficking.”

Focused discussion of the current NAP and lively sharing of international best practices among the participants of the workshop laid very clear paths for the development of the next NAP and suggested concrete activities to continue implementing policies aimed at prevention trafficking in human beings, protection of the victims of trafficking, prosecution of those involved in crimes relating to trafficking, and partnering for better results.

For more information, please contact:

Ms. Gulyalek Berdiyeva
Program Assistant
IOM Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
Tel: +99312 488407
E-mail: gberdiyeva@iom.int