UNODC PRESS RELEASE

Regional Conference on Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants
16-17 September

16 September 2019, Islamabad - The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), under the framework of the Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants in Asia and the Middle East (GLO.ACT – Asia and the Middle East), organized a two day (16-17 September 2019) Regional Conference to combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and the Smuggling of Migrants (SOM) at Marriott Hotel Islamabad, Pakistan.

GLO.ACT-Asia and the Middle East is a four year (2018-2022) joint initiative by the European Union (EU) and UNODC implemented in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in five countries in the region of Asia and Middle East, including Pakistan. The project reaffirms that combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling is of the highest importance for the EU and the United Nations as a whole.

Mr. Jeremy Milsom, Representative, UNODC Pakistan welcomed the guests of the conference and informed the audience that, “Increased cooperation among agencies at local and provincial level has lead to an increase in the number of prosecutions and arrest of traffickers and smugglers. New partners, such as the Pakistan Railways Police, identified during the implementation of GLO.ACT play an important role in controlling internal trafficking issues in Pakistan.”

Mr. Ahmed Mukkarram, Additional Director General Immigration, Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) said in his opening remarks, “Committed to implementing FIA’s mandate, we have taken concrete steps which include the enactment of laws on Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants in
May 2018 as well as the significant restructuring of the agency, leading to the establishment of several new anti-human trafficking circles across Pakistan.

Highlighting the importance of civil society, Ms. Anne Marchal, Chargé d’Affaires a.i., Delegation of the European Union to Pakistan said, “International Organizations, NGOs, civil society, and relevant agencies should also play their part in supporting national efforts to combat trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling. The EU stands ready to continue its unwavering support to these efforts, which have been exemplified through the truly outstanding work carried out by GLO.ACT and its partner countries and the considerable progress which has been and will be made in eradicating and preventing these crimes.”

Delegates from Afghanistan, Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Morocco and Nepal travelled to Pakistan to attend the Regional Conference. Representatives from several embassies and high commissions, UN Agencies, international/national Organizations, civil society, private corporations and senior government officials from provincial police departments, Pakistan Railways Police, provincial line departments, academia and media participated to reiterate their commitment towards combatting trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.

This conference is made possible with the financial support of the European Union.

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Urdu translation:

16 ستمبر 2019، اسلام آباد، ایجاد خلاف عیرالبیان و کپی از کلیه افراد از طریق امکانپذیری کی اقدامات که کل قاعده اوراس سے صحیح کارکردگی کے لیے اجرام کیا گیا تھا کے ایک مجموعه کے حوالے عزیریں کو کیا گیا تھا کے نہایت عزمی اقدام (GLO.ACT – Asia and the Middle East)
UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) have joined forces to combat smuggling and trafficking in human beings and goods.

The conference is being held in Islamabad on 16-17 September 2019. The UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) has a branch in Pakistan, and the IOM (International Organization for Migration) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) are also represented.

Jeremy Milson, the representative of the UNODC in Pakistan, welcomed the attendees and emphasized the importance of cooperation between various government and non-governmental organizations to combat smuggling and trafficking.

Ms. Anne Marchal, representing the FIA (Federal Investigation Agency) of Pakistan, highlighted the agency's success in combating smuggling and trafficking in the past year. She also emphasized the need for cooperation between international organizations and Pakistani authorities to combat criminal activities.

The conference was attended by representatives from various government and non-governmental organizations, including the Pakistan Railways, Pakistan Police, and the Pakistan Customs.

The conference was also attended by representatives from other countries, including Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Morocco, and Nepal.
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