***Regional Workshop:***

***Workshop on Strengthening the Abilities of Authorities in the Region for the Identification and Prevention of Trafficking in Persons for Labor Exploitation***

San Jose, Costa Rica

October 09th – 10th, 2013

Trafficking in Persons is a growing interest issue for the countries of the Central American region. Both government institutions and civil society have increased their actions against this form of violation of human rights. These include the establishment of coalitions or national committees against trafficking in persons, as well as the innovation of their legal frameworks - including the adoption of legislation on this matter-.

Nevertheless, so far, the focus of attention has been mainly engrossed on trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation, which has been further documented. In contrast, *trafficking in persons for labor exploitation* remains a complex issue in investigation and prosecution matters in such a way that even today, it is difficult to accurately determine the actual status of the dynamics of this type of crime in the region.

Some important background is the *"II Regional Meeting of Coalitions / National Committees against Trafficking in Persons: Labor Trafficking, an Urgent Challenge"* held in El San Salvador on March 9th – 10th, 2011. By then, it was established that:

Latin America sticks out to be the second region with the highest number of forced workers[[1]](#footnote-1). The Central American region is not spared from this modality of TiP, which is defined as the captivity and transfer of persons with the purpose to subject them through deception or force to forced labor or services.

In spite of the fact that trafficking in persons with the purpose of labor exploitation is very widespread, it results surprising the low detection by the competent authorities.

The changes occurred in the worldwide economy characterized by the opening of labor markets, of telecommunications and by a greater human mobility, increase the risk for the migrant workers that the employers and intermediaries are hiding behind ambiguous or non-existent labor contracts that legitimize open forms of coercive exploitation.

One of the ground reasons for the invisibilization of labor trafficking is the **normalization of the conditions of exploitation** for the labor force, created from the tendency of non-regularization and flexibility of labor contexts.

Mostly, this general diagnosis remains valid even though the actions of national institutions have been strengthened and there are more experiences of research and penalization of specific cases. In this scenario, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Central American Regional Coalition against Trafficking in Persons have joint forces to perform a second regional meeting to share information, best practices and remaining challenges and to analyze how much progress has been made in these two years, as well as the remaining road to go.

**OBJECTIVES**

General:

Strengthen the technical capacities of the authorities within the region in the field of trafficking in persons for labor exploitation, in order to enhance both the investigation and prosecution of those responsible, as well as the identification, protection and adequate assistance of their victims.

Specific:

* Spread some core concepts related to labor exploitation and trafficking in persons for labor purposes, as well as the international protection framework in order to deepen knowledge.
* Analyze scenarios of labor exploitation and labor trafficking in order to strengthen the detection and identification processes based on specific cases and experiences.
* Discuss about the role of State authorities in the prevention of trafficking in persons for labor exploitation, as well as protection and assistance for victims.
* Identify recommendations for strengthening detection, investigation and multilateral cooperation.

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**WORKSHOP AGENDA (preliminary)**

* **Day 1:** October 9th, 2013

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 08:00am– 08:30am | Registration of participants |  |
| 08:30am– 09:00am | **Session One:****Opening** |  |
| 09:00am– 09:30am | **Coffee Break** |
| 09:30am– 10:30am | **Session Two****Trafficking in persons for labor exploitation** **(forced work and services)****The conceptual starting point** Questions and answers |  |
| 10:30am– 12:30md | **Session Three****Does TiP for labor exploitation exist in Central America? Characterization of identified cases of labor trafficking in the region.*** Nicaragua
* Costa Rica
* El Salvador
 |  |
| 12:30md– 01:30pm | **Lunch** |
| 1:30pm– 03:30pm | **Session Four:*****Risk and victimization scenarios for the crime of trafficking in labor: Regional synthesis of the investigation on trafficking for labor exploitation in Central America***Questions and answers |  |
| 03:30pm– 04:00pm | **Coffee Break** |
| 04:30pm– 05:00pm | ***Session Five*** **How to detect situations of labor trafficking?** **Lessons learned and best practices of inter-institutional cooperation in the investigation of situations associated with trafficking in persons for labor exploitation.** |  |

* **Day 2: October 10th, 2013**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 08:00am– 08:30am | **Session Six****Recap** |  |
| 08:30am– 1000am | **Session Seven****Institutional capacities in detection and investigation matters of labor trafficking based on international instruments****Session Eight****Work Tables****Strategies to strengthen the detection of labor trafficking according to different scenarios:*** Domestic service
* Agro-industrial activity
* Maquilas and factories
* Construction
 |  |
| 10:00am– 10:30am | **Coffee Break** |
| 10:30am– 12:00md | **Session Nine**Plenary |  |
| 12:00md–01:00pm | **Lunch** |
| 01:00pm– 03:00pm | **Session Ten****Group work*** Mapping of counterparts who could intervene in the detection, investigation and assistance of victims of LTiP.
* Institutional competencies of each counterpart.
* Strategy for coordination of inter-agency cooperation and the exchange of sensitive information.
* Recommendations for the Regional Coalition and National Coalitions / Commissions
 |  |
| 03:00pm– 03:30pm | **Coffee Break** |
| 03:30 – 04:30  | **Session Eleven****Plenary Session****Conclusions and recommendations**  |  |

1. According to IOL (2005) Alliance against Forced Labor. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)