



**Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the United Nations
New York**

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STATEMENT BY MR. NEBIL SAID, FIRST SECRETARY, PERMANENT
MISSION OF ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AT THE 24TH SESSION OF
THE COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Item 4: Thematic discussion on the follow-up to the Thirteenth
United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
Vienna, 19 May 2015

Mr. Chairman,

Let me at the outset congratulate you and the other members of the bureau on your respective elections and assure you of Eritrea's support as you steer this session of the CCPCJ to a fruitful conclusion.

I would like also to thank the Executive-Director, Mr. Yuri Fedotov, for his briefing. Eritrea values the work of the UNODC.

Eritrea welcomes the Doha Declaration and would also like to thank the State of Qatar for an excellent organization of the 13th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

My delegation fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by Chile and Namibia on behalf of the G77 and China and African Group respectively.

Mr. Chairman,

Migration and movement of people from one place to another place internally and externally is a historical and global phenomenon. But what we are discussing today is the issue of illegal migration and the criminal activities perpetuated by the human traffickers and how to tackle these problems in a sustainable and collective way.

Eritreans are not spared from these criminal individuals and groups. Many Eritreans have been lured or forced into the hands by human smugglers and traffickers and are exposed to the agony of death and misery. Combating and eradicating these heinous crimes has become one of Eritrea's major priorities.

- In February 2013, recognizing the danger of human trafficking and smuggling H.E. Isaias Afwerki, President of the State of Eritrea formally requested the UN Secretary General H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon to launch an independent and transparent investigation on these abominable affairs and bring justice to its victims.

- In September 2014, Eritrea acceded to United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.
- The government has also taken several steps to combat and mitigate the effects of these crimes. It has:
 - a) Established legal, institutional, and administrative frameworks to prevent human trafficking and smuggling as well as to protect the victims and prosecute the criminals;
 - b) Intensified public awareness campaigns on the nature and manifestations of these crimes through mass media and community based meetings;
 - c) Provided protection and assistance to victims both inside and outside the country including repatriation and reintegration of those willing to return;
 - d) Dismantled criminal networks and taking punitive actions against persons involved in human trafficking and smuggling;
 - e) Implemented various projects aimed at creating economic and educational opportunities for the youth;
 - f) Embarked on close and mutually beneficial, partnerships with regional organizations and countries to address the problems of irregular migration and the crime of human trafficking through the AU-led Initiative and the Khartoum Process;

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, let me reiterate that Eritrea is determined to work with all its partners to combat and eradicate all forms on transnational crimes, especially, human trafficking and smuggling and to address the root causes of the problem.

The following principles can be taken by all of us as a guiding framework in combating human trafficking:

- Robust cooperation amongst countries of origin, transit and destination must be established and strengthened.
- Economic and educational opportunities for the youth must be improved and guaranteed.
- Migration and granting refugees status policies of destination countries must be reviewed and corrected. In the case of Eritrea, selectivity and politicization of the problem must stop. *Prima-facie* categorization is not only wrong but has opened an opportunity to the human traffickers to target and lure the Eritrean youth. This categorization has also created a loophole for non Eritreans to claim Eritrean origin so that they are automatically granted a refugee status. Some European countries have sent fact finding missions to Eritrea and have rectified their approach and mistake. We encouraged other countries to do the same.
- Human and institutional capacities of the government institutions and communities must be enhanced.
- The rights of all migrants must be protected, including their right to education, skills training, employment as well as their right to maintain their links to and visit their home country.

I thank you Mr. Chair.