

# **A Call to Action to End Forced Labour, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking**

This Call to Action<sup>1</sup> was launched on the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017 during the 72<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the UN General Assembly.

It has been endorsed by the following Member States and Observer States:

<b>Afghanistan</b>		<b>Guyana</b>	
<b>Argentina</b>		<b>Israel</b>	
<b>Armenia</b>		<b>Italy</b>	
<b>Australia</b>		<b>Japan</b>	
<b>Bahrain</b>		<b>Jordan</b>	
<b>Bangladesh</b>		<b>Kenya</b>	
<b>Belgium</b>		<b>Republic of Korea</b>	
<b>Brazil</b>		<b>Liechtenstein</b>	
<b>Bulgaria</b>		<b>Malaysia</b>	
<b>Cambodia</b>		<b>Malta</b>	
<b>Canada</b>		<b>Mauritius</b>	
<b>China</b>		<b>Mexico</b>	
<b>Colombia</b>		<b>Montenegro</b>	
<b>Côte D'Ivoire</b>		<b>Nepal</b>	
<b>Denmark</b>		<b>New Zealand</b>	
<b>El Salvador</b>		<b>Nigeria</b>	
<b>eSwatini</b>		<b>Norway</b>	
<b>Ethiopia</b>		<b>Paraguay</b>	
<b>The Gambia</b>		<b>Peru</b>	
<b>Ghana</b>		<b>Philippines</b>	
<b>Grenada</b>		<b>Poland</b>	
<b>Holy See</b>		<b>Qatar</b>	
<b>Hungary</b>		<b>Rwanda</b>	

<b>Samoa</b>		<b>St Vincent and The Grenadines</b>	
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>		<b>Switzerland</b>	
<b>Senegal</b>		<b>Turkey</b>	
<b>Seychelles</b>		<b>United Kingdom</b>	
<b>Sierra Leone</b>		<b>United Republic of Tanzania</b>	
<b>Slovakia</b>		<b>United States of America</b>	
<b>Spain</b>		<b>Zambia</b>	
<b>Sri Lanka</b>			
<b>St Lucia</b>			

1 This Call to Action is not legally binding and does not affect the states' existing obligations under applicable international and domestic law, but rather reflects the political commitments of the states represented.

## **A Call to Action to End Forced Labour, Modern Slavery, and Human Trafficking**

*We, the Leaders (and their representatives) of a diverse group of Member States and Observer States to the United Nations, united in our commitment to end forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking, and the worst forms of child labour in our world by 2030;*

**Stand together** in our commitment to combating the exploitation of human beings for the purposes of compelled labour or commercial sex through the use of force or other forms of coercion, or fraud, whether we describe this compelled service as human trafficking, modern slavery, or forced labour.

**Recognise** that these crimes respect neither borders nor jurisdictions, and recognise neither the dignity nor worth of human beings. Such exploitation destroys the lives of individuals, erodes security in communities, and undermines the prosperity of nations.

**Reaffirm** our resolve to bring to justice those who perpetrate these crimes and exploit other human beings, often at the most vulnerable points in their lives, for personal or commercial gain.

**Register with grave concern** the scale of the problem and emphasise that we need to accelerate action at both national and international levels to eliminate it.

**Recognise** that progress has been made in countering this issue worldwide; but that significant challenges remain across the globe.

**Welcome** the forthcoming review of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the ongoing efforts of institutions, organisations, and coalitions engaged in the fight against forced labour, modern slavery, and human trafficking, and the worst forms of child labour; and reaffirm our support for their activities.

**Commit to leading the way** in the fight against all these forms of exploitation by stepping up complementary action in our own countries, in close collaboration and cooperation with each other and other international partners, so that together we can end these abhorrent crimes once and for all.

We therefore:

1. **Agree that**, consistent with our national and international obligations, and in order to achieve the relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), particularly Target 8.7, by 2030, and with appropriate support, we will endeavour to:
  - (i) **Ratify and ensure the effective implementation of relevant international conventions, protocols, and frameworks** including the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol), supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, as well as by developing and accelerating effective implementation of our own domestic legislation; to ensure that forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and the worst forms of child labour are never tolerated in our societies.
  - (ii) **Develop and publish national strategies** that:
    - o Set out a comprehensive approach across the four key elements of prosecution, protection, prevention and partnerships; focusing on the root causes as well as the response;
    - o Take steps to measure, monitor and share data on prevalence and response to all such forms of exploitation, as appropriate to national circumstances;
    - o Promote cooperation amongst the full range of stakeholders needed for effective prevention and response; including private sector, civil society, and law enforcement and other frontline agencies;
    - o Raise awareness and improve understanding of the issues amongst the general public and amongst communities vulnerable to exploitation.
  - (iii) **Strengthen law enforcement and criminal justice responses** in order to rapidly enhance capacity to identify, investigate, and disrupt criminal activity; strengthen international legal cooperation, including through mutual legal assistance and extradition; and bring perpetrators to justice by applying sufficiently stringent penalties consistent with our legal obligations.
  - (iv) **Put victims first**, including by putting effective mechanisms in place to help ensure that all victims are identified, are protected, have access to justice and appropriate support; and are not unreasonably penalised for unlawful activities where they have been compelled to commit crimes as a direct consequence of their exploitation.
  - (v) **Eradicate forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking, and the worst forms of child labour from our economies** (both formal and informal) by developing regulatory or policy frameworks, as appropriate, and working with business to eliminate such practices from global supply chains; whilst addressing government procurement practices, and building a culture of consumer awareness which supports such action and promotes decent work.

- (vi) **Strengthen cooperation regionally and internationally** including, as appropriate: facilitating better data-sharing; supporting international legal cooperation during investigations and prosecutions; preventing safe havens for criminals; exchanging best practices; collaborating on victim identification, protection, reintegration and repatriation; and providing appropriate technical and financial support to partners.
- 2. Call for enhanced international cooperation** to tackle forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking, and the worst forms of child labour, and in particular:
- (i) The **United Nations to make this issue a priority across its three pillars of security, human rights, and development**, drawing in particular on its role as Secretariat for the relevant Conventions and Protocols, and for the Secretary General to take a leading role in improving the coherence of the response.
  - (ii) Greater emphasis on the need to **build the evidence base** and to promote greater transparency and sharing of data between institutions and organisations.
  - (iii) Donors and International Financial Institutions (IFIs) to enhance cooperation and **address the resourcing gap**, and build capacity for an effective response; including by leveraging resources from the Private Sector.
  - (iv) **Enhanced international cooperation on law enforcement** responses to end the impunity of criminal groups, including transnational criminal organizations, individuals, and complicit government officials.
  - (v) Increased focus and cooperation on the measures that can be taken to **reduce the drivers of forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking, and the worst forms of child labour and to protect the most vulnerable**; including those affected by conflict and humanitarian situations, people on the move, marginalised groups, and women and children.
  - (vi) **Ensure that victims can access the restorative support they need**, including through better victim safeguarding coordination to connect victims to appropriate support and reintegration services to reduce the risk of re-exploitation.
- 3. Commit** to assess our progress towards the achievement of these aims in a transparent manner; including by publishing our national strategies or relevant progress reports annually, and by reporting on progress towards achieving SDG Target 8.7 as part of the wider follow-up and review process for achieving Agenda 2030.

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