Trafficking in the Mesoamerican Corridor: a threat to regional and human security

Fernando García Robles
Trafficking in Persons

• **An underreported crime. A high number of women, men, adolescents, boys and girls become victims each year**

• **Trafficking is a process, starting with the recruitment and ending with the exploitation of the victim**

• **Trafficking is a severe crime that violates the human rights of their victims**

• **The patterns of human trafficking are constantly changing – global economy changes so the inventiveness of traffickers**
International Routes

Global Trafficking in Women and Children: Major Source Regions and Destinations (C)
Trafficking from and to the Americas
 Trafficking Trends: Asia / Americas
Countries of Origin, Transit, and Destination

North America

E. Europe

W. Europe

Asia
Caribbean Routes

[Map of Caribbean Routes showing connections to countries like China, India, and the Philippines, and various Caribbean islands and cities.]
TIP in the Americas: Push Factors

- Lack of Birth Registry
- Lack of Opportunity for Legal Migration
- Impact of Conflict, Natural Disasters
- Lack of Education
- Poverty
- Sexual Demand and Labor Exploitation
- Cultural Traditions and Values
- Domestic Violence Dysfunctional Families
- Unemployment
- Gender Discrimination
TIP in the Americas: Pull Factors

- Expectation of Employment
  Financial Reward

- Demand for cheap labor
  Men and women

- In sex industry,
  Expectations of financial reward

- Material / Glamorous
  Benefits of the West

- Demand for "exotic"
  Women as Prostitutes

- Demand for productive
  Work of women
Commitment of the OAS Member States

- Dedicated State action to combat trafficking in persons
- Anti TIP law enforcement
- Identification of victims
- Data collection
- Prevention-Protection
Cooperation Agreements

• **IOM.** The Caribbean, México, Bolivia, Belize, Perú. Consular and Peacekeeping materials

• **UNODC.** Chile

• **UNICEF.** Civil Society of the Americas

• **ILO.** Ecuador

• **Save the Children-Sweden.** Network of Missing People (RLD)

• **Local Civil Society.** Asian Trafficking

• **Government Sector.** Canada, USA, Mexico, Colombia, Greece, Philippines, Sweden.
Cooperation Activities

• Research
• Training and capacity-building: government, civil society, press, immigration authorities, law enforcement officers, consular officials, Pskeeprs.
• Participation of key women organizations
• Public information campaign: TV and Radio
• Victim assistance: professional services
• Establishment of legal frameworks
• Discussions on Legal and public policy reforms
Peacekeeping Capacity-Building
Consular Training
## Palermo Protocol

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>Sept. 26, 2008</td>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>March 12, 2009</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>April 1, 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahamas</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>Sept. 29, 2003</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>Sept. 29, 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belize</td>
<td>May 18, 2006</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>Oct. 12, 2004</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>Aug. 18, 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>May 13, 2002</td>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>Feb. 5, 2008</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>May 21, 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>Sept. 9, 2003</td>
<td>St. Kitts &amp; Nevis</td>
<td>May 21, 2004</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>May 13, 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>St. Lucia</td>
<td></td>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>St. Vin. &amp; the Gab.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominica</td>
<td>Sept. 17, 2002</td>
<td>Suriname</td>
<td></td>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>March 18, 2004</td>
<td>Trinidad &amp; Tobago</td>
<td></td>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>Nov. 3, 2005</td>
<td>Uruguay</td>
<td></td>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estados Unidos</td>
<td></td>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td></td>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grenada</td>
<td>May 21, 2004</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>April 1, 2004</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Legal Frameworks in the Americas

- **Argentina**: L. 26364/08 Prevention, Prosecution, Protection of Victims
- **Bolivia**: L. 3325/06 Trafficking and Smuggling. Law, Jan.18, 2006
- **Brazil**: D. 6347/08 National Plan to Combat TIP. L. 1106/05 Penal Code
- **Canada**: L. Immigration and Protection of Refugees 6.28.02. L. C-49 Amendment to Penal Code.
- **Chile**: Art. 367 Penal Code
- **Colombia**: L. 985/05. D. 4319/06 Special Account to combat TIP. L.1336 Strengthens L.679 against Sex Tourism. L.1329 against Sexual Exploitation of Minors.
- **Costa Rica**: Art.172 Penal Code. D. 32824 Anti TIP and Smuggling Coalition.
- **El Salvador**: Art. 367-B Penal Code
Legal Frameworks in the Americas

12. **Honduras**: Art. 149 Penal Code
14. **Nicaragua**: Art. 40 Tittle IV Constitution
15. **Panamá**: Executive Decree 97/04 Establishes Commission to Promote Public Policies to Combat TIP
16. **Paraguay**: D.5093/05 Prevents and Combats TIP. L.137/03 Smuggling of Migrants and TIP
17. **Peru**: L.28950/07 Modifies Penal Code against TIP. D. 2/04. Establishes working group against TIP
18. **Dominicana Rep**: L.137/03 Illicit Smuggling of Migrants and TIP
19. **Uruguay**: L. 18250/08 Smuggling and Trafficking of Persons
20. **Venezuela**: Art.54 Constitution
Fernando Garcia-Robles
Coordinator, Anti Trafficking in Persons
Department of Public Security
Organization of American States
1889 F. St. N.W. 870C
Washington, D.C. 20006

Email: mgarcia@oas.org
Tel: 202.458.3202
Fax: 202.458.3882