



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations

866 U.N. Plaza, Rm 304, New York, NY 10017

STATEMENT

BY

H.E. MR. MACHARIA KAMAU

AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

DURING

THE

SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN DEBATE

ON

"TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS IN CONFLICT SITUATIONS"

Tuesday, November 21, 2017
United Nations, New York

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**Mr. President,
Excellences,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

My delegation commends Italy for convening this important discussion on “Trafficking of Persons in Conflict Situations” and welcomes the informative briefings.

We also take note of the Secretary-General’s November 2017 Report on Trafficking in Persons in Conflict pursuant to resolution 2331/2016 where the Security Council condemned in the strongest terms all instances of human trafficking in areas affected by armed conflict.

We also take note of the briefings by the African Union and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and welcome and appreciate their strong messages.

Kenya also pays special homage to Italy; its response to the migration crisis has been civilized, humane and exemplary. The Government and people of Italy should be recognized for their humanity and determination of their efforts.

Mr. President,

Kenya condemns any form of human trafficking and views it as an unacceptable affront on humanity. Persons in areas affected by crises are especially vulnerable to trafficking and other forms of exploitation including sexual exploitation, forced labour, removal of organs and slavery.

We recall the kidnapping of school girls in Chibok by Boko Haram, which is a chilling reminder of how trafficking has evolved into a weapon of terror that is being adopted by criminals, and no country or region is safe from these contemporary forms of trans-national organized crimes.

Mr. President,

Kenya is a signatory to the Palermo Protocol and has enacted laws and initiated policies to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 2331/2016 through tailored national strategies.

The Kenya Counter Trafficking in Persons Act establishes the necessary institutional mechanisms for protection and support of trafficked persons.

These include, rehabilitation centres for victims of trafficking and pays particular attention to issues of illegal adoption of children, economic and sexual exploitation, slavery and forced labour.

The Victims Protection Act was enacted primarily to protect vulnerable victims rescued from traffickers. The National Plan of Action offers a coherent and realizable road map to address and combat human trafficking including raising awareness and prominently profiling human trafficking issues in both public and policy circles.

Kenya calls for enhanced international cooperation to enable all Member States to hold accountable those responsible for the atrocious crimes by criminalizing and prosecuting them.

Mr. President,

Like others, my delegation draws the attention of the Security Council to the abhorrent situation in Libya, where Africans are being auctioned like chattels in open slave markets. Nothing can be more distressing and abhorrent than slavery that is being practiced overtly in broad daylight in front of news and cameras.

The International Court of Justice identified protection from slavery as an obligation towards all persons and as an obligation owed by every State to the international community as a whole. The practice of slavery has been universally accepted as a crime against humanity, and the right to be free from enslavement is considered so fundamental that all nations have standing to bring offending states before the International Court of Justice.

Mr. President,

I wish to remind the Security Council that the adoption of the United Security Council Resolution 1973 of 2011 significantly contributed to the breakdown of law and order in Libya. This Resolution which was passed against the will of the African Union will always remain a stigma, and an indictment of the United Nations Security Council. In its short-sighted and hubris, it has caused more suffering and distress than it sought to address.

It is the Security Council's action that has led to Libya's 1,100-mile coastline becoming an open border for traffickers and smugglers who have become

merchants of death and untold human suffering. The Security Council therefore, has a special obligation to address the situation in Libya and to do so with the same determination that it sought to adopt resolution 1973!

Tragically, **Mr. President**, the plight of migrants crossing through Libya has been exacerbated by the European Union Policy of financing, training and equipping undefined groups in Libya to intercept and contain migrants trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea in detention camps. This policy is inhuman and should compel the international community to rise in righteous indignation and condemnation and to demand an immediate end to these discriminatory, if not racist policy of the EU that offends the human conscious and abets the horrific violation of human rights.

Although Resolution 1973/2011 is the original sin that paved the opening of slave markets in Libya, it is now being reinforced by the sad discriminatory responses of the European Union towards migrants.

Mr. President,

The European Union must now lead in seeking for humane sustainable solutions for the migrants in detention camps in Libya including how to deal with those who have already been sold to slavery. The solutions must include creating legal pathways for the migrants, seeking their resettlement in third countries and voluntary repatriation for those willing to return to their countries of origin in dignity and ensuring their human rights are not further violated.

Kenya calls for swift action to stop the slave auctions and requests the United Nations Security Council to ensure the immediate stop to the auctioning of human beings and to rescues those being held in prisons and other deplorable conditions.

Kenya also calls on the United Nations Security Council with close consultations with the African Union to appoint a Joint Commission of Inquiry to comprehensively investigate and enquire into this matter.

We are convinced that these are the issues most worthy of our urgent attention as they are the most blatant violations of human rights in our time.

I thank you!