



Human Rights Office

International Institute Maria Ausiliatrice - IIMA

NGO in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

Geneva, 19 September 2013

24th SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ITEM 6 UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW CANADA

Statement submitted by

IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice

Mister President,

Thank you for giving us the floor.

IIMA welcomes Canada's acceptance of several recommendations¹ concerning the protection of victims of human trafficking. Nevertheless, we regret its rejection and partial acceptance of other relevant recommendations,² and note that further efforts are required to ensure that immigrants are protected from the dangers of exploitation.

We commend Canada's National Action Plan to Combat **Human Trafficking**, and welcome its acceptance of recommendations 107 through 111, which are aimed at ensuring that individuals who are the victims of human trafficking are protected through proper procedures that encourage reporting of violations. However, we remain concerned that Canada's campaign against human trafficking mainly ignores labor exploitation.

Concerning **migrant workers**, we commend Canada's implementation of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program, but we regret Canada's rejection of recommendation 3 and its partial acceptance of recommendation 49. Moreover, we remain concerned about the persisting exploitation of workers through agencies that recruit workers abroad at exorbitant prices and place them in abusive living and working conditions in Canada. Similarly, we remain concerned that Canada places an unreasonable burden of proof on the trafficked survivor in obtaining a temporary protection permit to prove that he or she is a victim of trafficking.

Therefore, IIMA calls on Canada to:

- *Make widely available detailed indicators of human trafficking for the purpose of labor and sexual exploitation;*
- *Use the definition of trafficking from the Palermo Protocol as the operative definition in decision-making about trafficked survivors;*
- *Ensure adequate monitoring of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program in order to prevent the misrepresentation by recruiting agencies abroad as well as abusive living and working conditions in Canada; and*
- *Adopt a national strategy for poverty eradication and for the implementation of human rights and poverty-reduction criteria in the development of trade agreements.*

Thank you.

¹ Recommendations 128.147 (Belarus); 128.107 (Cambodia); 128.108 (Thailand); 128.110 (Uzbekistan); and 128.111 (Republic of Moldova). See Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, UN Doc. A/HRC/24/11 of 6/28/2013, and addendum of 8/17/2013 UN, Doc. A/HRC/24/11/Add.1.

² Recommendations 128.3 (Peru, Honduras, Cape Verde, ICRMW, Indonesia); 128.49 (China); and 128.124 (Russian Federation, Cuba, Egypt, Sri Lanka). *Ibidem*.