

Commemorating 20 years of the United Nations Trafficking in Persons Protocol & highlighting the related work of UNODC

High Level Event

Tuesday 21 April 2020, 1.00 - 2.30 p.m. | Conference Room: Annex 2

Background

The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, was adopted by General Assembly resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000 and entered into force on 25 December 2003. The Protocol, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, is the only global legally binding instrument with an agreed definition on trafficking in persons, and aims to promote effective action to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, protect its victims and develop effective criminal laws to prosecute its perpetrators, providing a comprehensive framework for cooperation between States parties.

UNODC has been at the forefront supporting UN Member States to improve national and regional responses against trafficking in persons through legislative assistance to bring legal frameworks in line with the Convention and the Protocols, strategic planning and policy development, improvement of law enforcement and judicial responses, as well as protection of, and support to victims of trafficking.

As of 2020, the Protocol continues its journey towards universal ratification, counting on 175 States Parties.

Concept and rationale

As the guardian of the Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and the Protocols thereto, UNODC convenes this High-Level event to provide an opportunity to celebrate the achievements made, take stock and have a fresh look at the challenges to collectively address this crime, discussing and reviewing the first 20 years of the Protocol implementation. It will also provide the occasion to explore new strategies to strengthen coordinated responses to trafficking in persons, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the recently launched Decade of Action, which calls for accelerating sustainable solutions to the world's biggest challenges.

The event will see the participation of Ministerial-level speakers from UN Member States, senior representatives from international and regional organizations as well as leading independent experts and representatives from concerned non-governmental counterparts, ensuring geographical balance and strong female representation. UNODC is exploring the possibility to welcome the participation of the Director General of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).