



Tool 2.9 Regional action plans and strategies

Overview

This tool refers to some promising examples of regional action plans and strategies to combat human trafficking.

Given the often transnational nature of the problem of human trafficking, it is unlikely that any real success will ever be achieved at the national level without international collaboration. This is why many regional action plans have been prepared throughout the world. Many existing regional action plans include provisions on prevention, protection and prosecution of trafficking in persons, as well as repatriation and reintegration of trafficking victims. Some regional action plans also promote information sharing, the provision of education and vocational training and the launching of public awareness-raising campaigns.

Promising practice

Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Women and Children (Asian Regional Initiative against Trafficking in Women and Children)

At the Asian Regional Initiative against Trafficking in Women and Children conference held in Manila in 2000, more than 20 States and several international organizations and non-governmental organizations developed an action plan to combat trafficking in women and children. The plan contains proposals for action in four strategic areas: prevention, protection, prosecution and reintegration. The website www.humantrafficking.org is one of the first tangible results of this action plan and helps participants exchange information and learn from each other's experience.



The action plan can be obtained at:
www.humantrafficking.org/events/88

Subregional Plan of Action (Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking)

COMMIT is a process led by the Governments of the six Greater Mekong Subregion countries. It is aimed at creating a sustained and effective system of cross-border cooperation and collaboration to combat trafficking in persons. Following the creation of COMMIT, the six Governments signed a subregional memorandum of understanding on human trafficking in Asia and the Pacific and have adopted a comprehensive and strategic Subregional Plan of Action to build a web of cooperative initiatives against trafficking in persons. UNIAP is the secretariat for COMMIT. COMMIT is governed by a Senior Officials Meeting which convenes annually. The Subregional Plan of Action focuses on activities which are regional

and cross-border in nature and is intended to complement national responses. It is ultimately a system of cooperation which builds linkages between Governments, United Nations agencies and international and national non-governmental organization partners. The Plan of Action comprises 11 areas of intervention and one of management:

1. Regional training programme;
2. Identification of victims and apprehension of perpetrators;
3. National plans;
4. Multisectoral and bilateral partnership;
5. Legal frameworks;
6. Safe and timely repatriation;
7. Post-harm support and reintegration;
8. Extradition and mutual legal assistance;
9. Economic and social support for victims;
10. Addressing exploitative brokering practices;
11. Cooperation with the tourism sector;
12. Management: coordination, monitoring and evaluation.

A guidance document issued by the secretariat during the third Senior Officials Meeting and entitled “Principles and methods of working in the COMMIT process” serves as a common understanding among stakeholders.



The COMMIT Subregional Plan of Action can be found at:
http://no-trafficking.org/content/COMMIT_Process/COMMIT_background.html#05

OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe)

The OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings recognizes that a comprehensive approach to trafficking in persons requires a focus on bringing to justice those responsible for this crime and on carrying out effective measures to prevent it, while maintaining a humanitarian and compassionate approach in rendering assistance to its victims.

The Action Plan is intended to help participating States implement their commitments on combating trafficking and to provide them with a follow-up mechanism, which will also promote coordination between individual participating States and with other international organizations. The Action Plan adopts a multidimensional approach to combating trafficking in human beings. It addresses the problem comprehensively, covering the protection of victims, the prevention of trafficking in persons and the prosecution of those who facilitate

or commit the crime. It provides recommendations as to how participating States and relevant OSCE institutions, bodies and field operations may best deal with political, economic, legal, law enforcement, educational and other aspects of the problem.



The Action Plan is contained in OSCE Permanent Council decision No. 557/Rev.1 and can be consulted at:
www.osce.org/documents/pc/2005/07/15594_en.pdf

Charter of the Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference

The Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference is a forum for official immigration agencies of the Pacific region sponsored by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. It is coordinated by a permanent secretariat based in Suva, Fiji and is intended to foster mutual cooperation and assistance to strengthen the integrity of borders in the Pacific region. According to its Charter (of September 2005), the vision of the Conference is to provide a focal point for communication, collaboration and cooperation among its members, with the aim of better managing migration flows and strengthening border management across the region, thereby contributing to improved social and economic well-being and security in the Pacific. The Conference aims:

- To encourage greater cooperation, communication and liaison between participating agencies, including the development and maintenance of communications between conferences
- To foster a coordinated approach to the implementation of any policies of Forum members having a regional focus
- To coordinate the exchange of technical assistance by and between participating member agencies
- To act as a focal point for collaboration with other regional and international bodies and organizations, such as the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Oceania Customs Organization, the South Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police Conference, INTERPOL, the International Air Transport Association (IATA), IOM and relevant United Nations agencies

The eleventh annual meeting of the Conference, which was held in Samoa in August 2007, addressed the theme of “Working together to strengthen regional security and prosperity through managed international people movements”.



More information about the Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference is available at:
www.pidcsec.org

Plan of Action of the Regional Conference on Migration

The Regional Conference on Migration (informally known as the Puebla Process) is a multi-lateral regional forum on international migration. Its membership consists of all the Central American countries, Canada, the Dominican Republic, Mexico and the United States. The group was established in 1996 to improve communication on migration issues among immigration and foreign policy officials in the region. In 2002, an action plan was adopted at a meeting of the Regional Conference on Migration held in Guatemala.

The plan includes the following objectives:

- To encourage the Governments of the region that have not yet criminalized trafficking in persons to include the offence in their law
- To regularize the activities of the liaison officer network to combat smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons
- To intensify cooperation through a regional workplan to make borders safe
- To enhance public awareness of the risks and dangers of irregular or undocumented migration through information campaigns
- To establish coordination mechanisms relative to consular protection and national legislation
- To strengthen respect for the human rights of all migrants regardless of their migrant status, with special attention to protection of the rights of vulnerable groups such as women and children



The Plan of Action can be obtained at:
www.rcmvs.org/plande.htm

Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings (Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe)

The Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings is an instrument of coordination to encourage and strengthen cooperation among the countries of South-Eastern Europe in order to streamline and accelerate efforts to combat human trafficking in the region. The Task Force was established in 2000 and seeks to encourage the development of anti-trafficking policies in South-Eastern Europe by raising the awareness of Governments regarding trafficking as both a law enforcement issue and a human rights concern. The Anti-Trafficking Task Force coordinates with other relevant regional initiatives, such as the Stability Pact Gender Task Force and the Stability Pact Initiative

against Organized Crime. The 2001 Multiyear Anti-Trafficking Action Plan for South-Eastern Europe outlines a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to combating trafficking.



The Multi-Year Anti-Trafficking Action Plan for South-Eastern Europe is available at:

www.stabilitypact.org/trafficking/atap-2001.doc

Action Plan on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in its Organized Forms (May 2007-April 2009)

(Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization)

The Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization was formed by 11 Governments in 1992 to foster peace, stability and prosperity among member States. Its most recent Action Plan on Cooperation in Combating Crime refers to the implementation of the Agreement among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in its Organized Forms, and commits them to organizing a regional seminar and training on trafficking in persons, and to explore the possibility of enhancing cooperation with the South-East European Cooperative Initiative Regional Center for Combating Trans-Border Crime.



The Black Sea Economic Cooperation Action Plan on Cooperation in Combating Crime is available at:

www.bsec-organization.org/admin/Action%20Plan%20FINAL.pdf

Economic Community of West African States Declaration on the Fight against Trafficking in Persons

At the twenty-fifth Ordinary Session of Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS, held in Dakar on 20 and 21 December 2001, the Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS signed the Declaration on the Fight against Trafficking in Persons and adopted the ECOWAS Initial Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons (2002-2003) annexed to the Declaration.

(See also Tool 1.8).

The ECOWAS Initial Plan of Action sets out actions and implementing agencies in the areas of protection and support of victims, prevention and awareness-raising, collection, exchange and analysis of information, specialization and training, travel and identity documents, and monitoring and evaluation.



The Declaration is available at:

www.iss.co.za/AF/RegOrg/unity_to_union/pdfs/ecowas/10POAHuTraf.pdf



More information about ECOWAS is available at:

www.ecowas.int



The UNODC training manual on the implementation of the ECOWAS Initial Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons (2002-2003) is available at:

www.unodc.org/pdf/ecowas_training_manual_2006.pdf

Actions of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to implement the ASEAN Declaration against Trafficking in Persons, Particularly Women and Children

The ASEAN member States work together to translate the commitments made in the framework of the ASEAN Declaration against Trafficking in Persons, Particularly Women and Children are translated into action. They have developed plans of action and work programmes to give effect to those commitments and are currently working together:

- To ensure that trafficking in persons is a crime in each ASEAN member country
- To ensure that national policies on trafficking are consistent within the ASEAN region
- To find ways for law enforcement officials to work together, bilaterally and multilaterally
- To arrange that law enforcement officials take part in joint training
- To develop a regional training programme about assistance for victims of trafficking

High-level cooperation takes place through the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime.



Source: *ASEAN Responses to Trafficking in Persons: Ending Impunity for Traffickers and Securing Justice for Victims*, p. 4, available at:

www.artipproject.org/artip/14_links/Pubs/ASEAN%20Responses%20to%20TIP.pdf