

Reference: CU 2009/33 (A)

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the [Permanent Representative of (...) to the United Nations (Vienna)] and has the honour to draw the attention of the Government to decision 4/4 of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, entitled “Trafficking in Human Beings”.

In its decision 4/4, the Conference decided to establish an open-ended interim working group to advise and assist the Conference in the implementation of its mandate with regard to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Person, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

It also decided that the working group should perform the following functions:

- (i) Facilitate implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol through the exchange of experience and practices between experts and practitioners in this area, including by contributing to the identification of weaknesses, gaps and challenges;
- (ii) Make recommendations to the Conference on how States parties can better implement the provisions of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol;
- (iii) Assist the Conference in providing guidance to its secretariat on its activities relating to the implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol;
- (iv) Make recommendations to the Conference on how it can better coordinate with the various international bodies combating trafficking in persons with respect to implementing, supporting and promoting the Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

The Conference further decided that the working group should meet during the fifth session of the Conference and should hold at least one intersessional meeting before that session.

The Government is accordingly invited to participate in the first meeting of the open-ended interim working group on the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, which will be held in Vienna, Austria, from 14 to 15 April 2009.

Documentation including the annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work, will be electronically available in all the official United Nations languages at the Internet page of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and can be accessed through the following address:

[http:// www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/working-groups.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/working-groups.html)

..... Attached is a copy of an information note for participants regarding administrative details and instructions to facilitate travel, visa, hotel and other arrangements.

It would be appreciated if the Government's response to this invitation could be sent directly to the Secretariat of the Conference of the Parties, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, P.O. Box 500, 1400 Vienna, Austria, Fax: +43-1 26060 75752 or a scanned copy to email: untoc.cop@unodc.org

Information on the composition of the Government's delegation, including name(s), title(s) and contact details, should be provided to the Office as soon as possible.

4 March 2009