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Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

Integration and coordination of efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and by Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice

Belarus, Nicaragua and Syrian Arab Republic: draft resolution

Countering trafficking in persons in the context of rapid technological change

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

Reiterating its strong condemnation of trafficking in persons, which constitutes an offence and a serious threat to human dignity and human rights, physical integrity, and sustainable development,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, *Reaffirming* the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹ and recognizing its integrated and indivisible nature,

Further recalling the importance of SDG 16 for promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels,

Recalling the importance of Sustainable Development Goal 17 for promoting, as appropriate, multistakeholder partnerships, including effective public-private, and civil society partnerships, as an important vehicle for mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources in the fight against trafficking in persons,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

* E/CN.15/2024/1.

¹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

Recognizing the important role of the Interagency Coordination Group Against Trafficking in Persons in fostering coordination and cooperation in the global fight against trafficking in persons, within the existing mandates of its members and partners;

Recognizing that rapid technological change has profoundly transformed societies, increased connectivity, promoted innovation and offered unprecedented opportunities, and that it has the potential to accelerate the realization of the 2030 Agenda and advance social development for all,

Noting that the availability and use of online communication platforms create new ways for perpetrators to commit crimes and may contribute to increased risks for exploitation and trafficking in persons,

Recognizing that:

(a) Human Traffickers are increasingly taking advantage of digital technologies to reach larger audiences and expand their criminal activities by operating simultaneously and anonymously in different locations, and continually using and adapting digital technologies to avoid detection, investigation and prosecution,

(b) Human traffickers are using online tools to facilitate trafficking in persons, such as recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons and related financial transactions, and various forms of exploitation as provided by article 3(a) of the Human Trafficking Protocol, as well as sexual exploitation of children in the context of travel and tourism,

(c) The use of mobile applications and smartphones, by children and adolescents, makes them potentially vulnerable to trafficking in persons,

(d) Organized criminal groups including terrorist groups involved in human trafficking, also use the Internet to facilitate this crime, and that it is fundamental to counter such trafficking while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms in compliance with applicable obligations under domestic and international law,

(e) It is important to mainstream a gender perspective into crime prevention and criminal justice policies and programmes and into efforts to prevent and combat transnational organised crime, including trafficking in persons,

(f) The effectiveness of international cooperation and efforts by Member States to combat trafficking in persons online may be improved through provision of technical assistance,

(g) Human traffickers are increasingly recruiting individuals through online advertisements for seemingly legitimate jobs and exploiting them by forcing them to perpetrate online fraud and scam operations, including through call-centers, thereby subjecting victims to forced criminality, debt bondage as well as a range of abusive practices,

Recalling CCPCJ resolution 32/1, which called upon Member States *to* assess the root causes of trafficking in persons, utilizing a gender-responsive, victim-centred and trauma-informed human rights-based approach that helps to evaluate the influence of all factors, including socioeconomic inequalities, and the effectiveness and impact of policies, programmes and other initiatives aimed at preventing and combating organized crime, in order to subsequently adopt national policies and measures that can address those causes and respond more effectively to combating trafficking in persons;

Recognizing also the potential of the Internet and emerging technologies to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and to assist victims and survivors*, and stressing the need for technology-based solutions to identify cases and victims of trafficking and for increased law enforcement cooperation in this regard;

**Footnote:* The term “survivor” or “survivors” is not defined in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, but in some Member States it is used to acknowledge that victims of trafficking in persons can recover or have recovered from the trauma that they have endured.

Emphasizing the central role of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the global fight against trafficking in persons, in particular in providing technical assistance to Member States, upon their request to counter trafficking in persons through implementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime² and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,³ by making use of existing capacity-building tools, lessons learned from Member States and expertise available in other international organizations:

1. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, as a matter of priority, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, taking into consideration the central role of those instruments in the fight against trafficking in persons, and urges States parties to those instruments to implement them fully and effectively;

2. *Reaffirms* that trafficking in persons, especially of women and children, cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality or civilization;

3. *Also reaffirms* the importance of a holistic, inclusive, and comprehensive approach and the need for all stakeholders to collaborate in a more concerted way in addressing the possible impacts, opportunities and challenges of rapidly evolving technologies in countering trafficking in persons in the digital age;

4. *Recognizes* the need for more coordinated and scaled-up global digital capacity-building efforts and stronger capacity-building support at the country level,

5. *Encourages* Member States to ensure that the promotion and protection of the human rights of victims of trafficking in persons, the prevention of trafficking in persons by addressing the social, economic, cultural, political and other contributing factors and the strengthening of the criminal justice response are at the centre of all efforts to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and to protect, assist and provide redress to victims*;

**Footnote:* see above (footnote on survivors)

6. *Encourages* Member States, in accordance with their domestic law, to ensure that identified victims of trafficking are not penalised for having been trafficked and that they do not suffer from victimization as a result of actions taken by government authorities, communities and families,

7. *Encourages* Member States to adopt measures, in accordance with their domestic legal systems and relevant applicable international law, including human rights law, inter alia:

(a) To reinforce efforts to combat trafficking in persons online in the context of rapid technological change;

(b) To counter human traffickers’ use of technological advancements and new methods to target potential victims including for the purpose of the forced perpetration of online scams;

(c) To intensify international, regional and subregional cooperation to combat trafficking in persons, as well as technical assistance for countries of origin, transit

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

and destination aimed at strengthening their ability to prevent all forms of trafficking in persons,

(d) To increase and support prevention efforts in countries of origin, transit and destination by focusing domestically and globally on the demand that fosters all forms of trafficking in persons,

(e) To take measures to develop targeted awareness-raising campaigns including for law enforcement, front-line service providers and at-risk industries, to identify the signs of online trafficking in persons and to develop specialised training for law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners,

(f) To advance digital literacy and education on the safe and secure use of technologies as means of prevention, in particular among women, children and persons in vulnerable situations and for reducing their risk of being trafficked;

(g) To take, consistent with domestic law, legislative or other measures, where appropriate, to facilitate the detection by Internet service and access providers or other relevant entities of child sexual exploitation and child abuse materials related to offences involving trafficking in children, as required by domestic frameworks and to ensure, in compliance with domestic law the reporting of such materials to the relevant authorities and their removal by Internet service and access providers or other relevant entities, including in conjunction with law enforcement in the investigation and prosecution,

(h) To prevent and counter online trafficking in persons by organized criminal groups, including terrorist groups,

(i) To put the rights and safety of children and persons in vulnerable situations at the centre of trafficking in persons prevention policies and provide them with equal, safe and effective access to age-appropriate information, and information on their rights, and to high-quality online resources, including on digital skills and literacy, to prevent their exposure and vulnerability to trafficking in persons;

(j) To cooperate with relevant civil society organizations in preventing and addressing technology-facilitated trafficking in persons including through awareness-raising campaigns and by identifying and assisting victims of trafficking in persons;

(k) To cooperate with the relevant academic and research communities and where relevant the private sector to explore the impact of rapid technological development on trafficking in persons, including how such technologies can be utilized to prevent and combat trafficking in persons in its various forms and to assist victims of trafficking, and how to provide effective safeguards and oversight to ensure that technological developments, in particular the algorithms used in artificial intelligence-based solutions, do not facilitate and perpetuate existing patterns of inequality and discrimination;

(l) To provide technical assistance to developing countries upon their request to support their efforts to prevent, combat and prosecute trafficking in persons in the digital age,

8. *Reaffirms* the significant role of effective international cooperation in preventing and combating trafficking in persons, including in the area of mutual legal assistance and extradition,

9. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime:

(a) To continue providing, within its existing mandate, technical assistance and training to Member States, in particular developing countries, at their request, to improve and build capacities to prevent and combat trafficking in persons online.

(b) To encourage the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, to further explore the impact of various technologies on trafficking in persons in its work;

10. *Invites* the Secretary-General to include information on the implementation of the present resolution within the existing reporting obligations to the General Assembly under the item on crime prevention and criminal justice;

11. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for these purposes, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

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